Hafa Adai!

NAP starts S-EBT 2024 distribution. PAGE 2

$50K cash bail on man caught in violation of bail conditions. PAGE 2

$1

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IN PLEA TO KEEP PRINCIPAL JONES AT KHS

Students peacefully gather at BOE

By CHRYSTAL MARINO
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CORRESPONDENT

» Camacho says nothing's set in stone yet

Several students from the Kagman High School gathered outside the Board of Education office on Capitol Hill to peacefully protest yesterday afternoon the rumored reassignment of principal Benjamin Jones Jr. along with his leadership team at KHS.

The peaceful gathering which lasted close to two hours is the first of a planned weeklong student-led protest to be held from 3pm to 5pm on July 15-19.

Education Commissioner

See CAMACHO on Page 4

CHRYSTAL MARINO

From left, Kagman High School students Ethan Dikito, Nevaeh Camacho, Vinnie Juan Sablan, Jass Dikito, and Jayda Norita during their peaceful protest yesterday afternoon in front of the Board of Education Commissioner's office on Capitol Hill.

$100K bail for man caught with 111 grams of 'ice'

CHRYSTAL MARINO

James F. Basa Camacho is escorted back to the Department of Corrections shortly after his bail hearing yesterday in Superior Court in Susupe.

By CHRYSTAL MARINO
chrystal_marino@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

A man recently caught with 111 grams of methamphetamine or "ice" on his person is facing two counts—one for trafficking and one for possession of

See $100K on Page 4

TO RESTRICT OUTSIDE FOOD AND LIMIT COMMERCIAL OPERATORS

DPL to amend commercial use of Mañagaha

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Department of Public Lands has proposed amendments to the current rules and regulations for the commercial use of Mañagaha Island, which includes restricting consumption of outside food and beverages in the exclusive concession areas and to limit sub-concessionaires and commercial operators doing business on the island.

Over a week ago, DPL issued a public notice of proposed amendments to the commercial use of Mañagaha Island rules and regulations.

Specifically, the proposed amendments will revise existing regulatory language in regulations regarding uses and privileges and definitions.

"The CNMI Office of the Governor, DPL intends to

See DPL on Page 4

Assassination attempt on Trump abhorred by all CNMI political parties

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The recent assassination attempt on former president Donald Trump remains the talk of the town and as the events of what happened over the weekend sinks in, political parties in the CNMI want to make clear that they all condemn the hateful act that claimed the life of one and left others injured.

Yesterday, the CNMI Republican Party and the Democratic Party of the Northern Mariana Islands issued statements addressing the attempted assassination of former president and presidential candidate Trump.

Both parties, despite their

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INSIDE

BUSINESS

When PC Bargain expanded to offering groceries and apparel in 2022 for their Saipan branch and 2023 for their Guam branch, it resulted in the founding of Avedson, LLC to solely sell products online.

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WORLD

Hamas said Sunday that Gaza cease-fire talks were ongoing and the group's military commander was in good health, a day after the Israeli military targeted Mohammed Deif with a massive airstrike.

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LIFE & STYLE

Shannen Doherty, the "Beverly Hills, 90210" star whose life and career were roiled by illness and tabloid stories, has died at 53.

PAGE 11

SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.

Local

NAP starts S-EBT 2024 distribution

By RACQUEL H. FLOYD
raxfloyd@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

The drive-thru distribution of the Summer Electronic Benefit Transfer on Saipan started yesterday from 8am to 3pm at the Nutrition Assistance Program office in As Lito.

NAP administrator Margarita Aldan said S-EBT distribution actually kicked off on July 11 and 12 on Tinian and Rota. However, there were some parents who were not able to claim their S-EBTs, but there will be coupons to give out that they can claim anytime.

"It went well so there's parents that were off-island and were not able to pick up their benefits...So they have coupons down there and they can be coming in and picking up their coupons...we have two staff that went to Rota and two staff went to Tinian to work with the staff there, and they did the distribution, issuance," said Aldan.

The S-EBT amount per student is $177. Margarita said that on Rota and Tinian combined, they issued a total of 400 S-EBTs and there are about 100 unclaimed.

The S-EBT issuance on Saipan will run from July 15 to 20 and July 22-23. The distribution will be issued based on the first letter of the head of the household family name wherein yesterday they started from A-B, today will be from C-D, tomorrow, July 17, will be from E-K, on July 18 will be L-N, July 19 will be O-R, and on July 20 it will be S-T. Sunday will be closed and S-EBT distribution will resume on the July 22 with letters U-Z, while the July 22 and 23 will be an open day for those who were not able to claim their benefits.

RACQUEL FLOYD

The Nutrition Assistance Program office in As Lito.

RACQUEL FLOYD

Nutrition Assistance Program's Summer Electronic Benefit Transfer distribution drive-thru started yesterday.

On the first day of S-EBT distribution, NAP encountered minor problems where some of the students' names were not included on the list. Aldan would like to remind parents to call the school or the Public School System.

"We don't know where your kids are going to school, their names or anything NAP doesn't, but PSS should . . . they have to call their school, have to call PSS," Aldan said.

The S-EBT is intended for the summer of 2024 for school year 2023-2024. It's a benefit for children enrolled in public and private schools. K-12 are considered school-aged children, a school-aged child turns 5 years old on or before Septe.30, 2023.

The S-EBT is issued from 8am to 3pm via drive-thru during the scheduled dates of S-EBT distribution. Households that are unable to pick up the benefits on their designated date may do so on the "open day" schedules which is on July 22 and 23. For those who are off-island and won't be able to claim their benefit, they can still claim it from July 24 to Nov. 9, 2024 from 8am to 12pm via walk-in process in the NAP BICA office in As Lito.

Households will be required to provide a valid photo identification such as a driver's license, passport, municipal ID, U.S. permanent resident card, etc. The identity of the parent or legal guardian will be verified against the list of eligible households.

For inquiries regarding the S-EBT program, you may call their call center from Monday to Friday, 8am-4:30pm at (670) 285-0758 or (670) 285-0471.

$50K cash bail for man caught in violation of bail conditions

CHRYSTAL MARINO

Kelvin C. Sanchez is escorted back to the Department of Corrections after his hearing in Superior Court last Friday.

By CHRYSTAL MARINO
chrystal_marino@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

The Superior Court placed a $50,000 cash bail on a man caught in violation of his bail conditions after he was found with another wanted man.

Kelvin C. Sanchez, 36, who had faced several serious charges of assault and battery, strangulation, interfering with a domestic violence report, disturbing the peace, and domestic violence in one case, and unlawful possession of ammunition and illegal position of controlled substance in another case, stood before Associate Judge Joseph N Camacho last Friday after being caught in violation of his bail conditions, with possession of drugs.

Camacho imposed a cash bail of $50,000 and scheduled a preliminary hearing for Sanchez on July 19, 2024 at 10am and an arraignment hearing on July 22, 2024 at 9am. Sanchez was transferred back to the custody of the Department of Corrections. Assistant attorney general David Karch will represent the government in the case and Chief Public Defender Douglas Hartig was appointed as an attorney for Sanchez.

According to court documents, on the afternoon of Wednesday, July 10, 2024, at around 4:09pm, officers from the Criminal Investigation Bureau received crucial information regarding the whereabouts of Michael S. Olaitiman from a confidential source. The source had spotted Olaitiman in a vehicle parked at the Saipan Vegas parking lot. Officers promptly followed up on this lead and located Olaitiman in the front passenger seat of a black Toyota Hilux, which was driven by Kelvin Sanchez.

Upon arrival, officers recognized Sanchez, noting his previous encounters with law enforcement and his current release conditions. At

See BAIL on Page 3

KONFITMA 2024 full-scale 24-hour exercise

The CNMI Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management is pleased to announce the upcoming KONFITMA 2024 exercise on Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, and Explosive will be conducted.

This is a full-scale 24-hour exercise conducted by the Guam National Guard's 94th Civil Support Team and the Wisconsin National Guard's 54th Civil Support Team on Sept. 3 and 4 on Saipan.

KONFITMA 2024 exercise is designed for the readiness and responsiveness of the 94th CST and the 54th CST in dealing with potential CBRNE threats. The event will simulate realistic scenarios that test the team's capabilities in detection, decontamination, medical response, and coordination with emergency services from the local, state, and federal levels.

The 94th Civil Support Team is a specialized unit of the Guam National Guard focused on responding to chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and explosives incidents. The team is equipped with advanced technology and trained to provide expert support to civil authorities during emergencies, ensuring the safety and security of the public.

Key details:

- Event: 24-hour Full-Scale CBRNE Exercise
- Date: Sept. 3-4, 2024
- Location: Saipan, CNMI
- Participants: Guam National Guard 94th WMD-CST, Wisconsin National Guard 54TH WMD-CST, CNMI Homeland Security and Emergency Management, Department of Fire and Emergency Services, Department of Public Safety, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Customs and Biosecurity, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation, Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation, Public School System, CNMI Judiciary Marshalls, Bureau of Environmental Coastal Quality, Department of Public Works, and Department of Community and Cultural Affairs

The exercise will include a series of challenging scenarios such as simulated hazardous material releases, mass casualty incidents, and other complex emergencies that require swift and coordinated responses. These drills are essential for maintaining the high level of preparedness necessary to protect our community from potential CBRNE threats.

CNMI Homeland Security and Emergency Management special assistant Franklin Babauta said, "These exercises improve our relationship with Guam National Guard members and our community's first responders to understand each other and build on teamwork for future support or to respond to any incidents that we exercise."

The CNMI Homeland Security and Emergency Management is dedicated to the safety and security of the CNMI community. The public is advised of the increased emergency responder activity on the island during the exercise. These activities are part of the training and should not be a cause for concern.

For more information or any questions, contact the CNMI Office Homeland Security and Emergency Management public information officer Bernard Villagomez at (670) 287-7106 or b.villagomez@cnmihsem.gov.mp. ***(PR)***

General Assembly adopts Muña Barnes' resolutions

GUAM—Vice Speaker Tina Muña Barnes thanks the members of the Mariana Islands Legislature Association, who adopted four resolutions she authored during the association's 2nd General Assembly, which concluded formal discussions Friday afternoon.

The first measure approved, No. 2-GA-01, expresses support for H.R. 8786, introduced in the United States House of Representatives by Delegate James Moylan (R-GU), which seeks to provide for a cabotage exemption for foreign air carriers landing in Guam or the Northern Mariana Islands.

» MILA measures take regional approach to airfare, cyber threats, disaster response, and education

"As we have discussed during this general assembly, the price of airfare coming, going, and transiting through the Mariana Islands have been cost prohibitive for tourists, and more importantly, our own residents and our loved ones who reside in the United States," the vice speaker told the members of MILA. "This change will mean greater access to CHamoru homelands for a generation of people in the diaspora. It will mean more visitors can afford to vacation in our territories. And it is the fair way for the federal government to administer our territories."

Her second resolution, No. 2-GA-02, creates the MILA Cybersecurity Working Group as a way to share information of internet-based threats and best practices to combat them between Guam and the CNMI.

Muña Barnes has been focusing on having the Micronesian region marshal its resources in order to address the reported sophisticated cyberattacks that are targeting critical infrastructure and sensitive information.

"That is why I have proffered similar legislation here on Guam, and recently at the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures, and now here at this general assembly, to focus on these threats as a unified team," she said. "Like those measures, this resolution calls on Guam and the CNMI to share our latest information on threats and responses with each other, to the extent practicable and by doing so, I hope that neither of our territories have to face the aftermath of thousands of sensitive personnel jackets, or health records, or financial reports get leaked or ransomed by the persistent, advance attacks we face today."

Muña Barnes

Mutual benefits, mutual growth

Her third resolution, No. 2-GA-06, aims to expand regional disaster response capabilities across the Mariana Islands.

"After being struck by our first typhoon in 20 years, it became clear to many residents that the government of Guam could be better in its recovery efforts, especially when it comes to sharing critical information while telecommunications are unreliable at best and nonexistent at worst," Muña Barnes stated. "I believe with the lessons learned from Typhoon Mawar and the wealth of experience that the CNMI has gained with your more active typhoon history over the last few decades, our people can mutually benefit from a renewed effort to share our mistakes and successes and re-evaluate our pressing needs that can be addressed in a number of ways, like updated plans to deploy our respective local workforce who can supplement the number of people working to restore utilities, treat injuries, and process claims for services."

The vice speaker's final measure, No. 2-GA-07, aims to enhance educational exchange programs between Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands.

She shared the value brought to her team through her recent hire of a CNMI student attending the University of Guam, and how his policy work helped ensure the vice speaker advocated to restore educational subsidies that were planned to be cut by the Federated States of Micronesia national government.

According to Muña Barnes, the paid internship of Blanco "proved that a more active, more collaborative approach to these issues can make sure more promising island leaders finish their degrees, and return home to contribute to their communities."

Following his time at her office, Blanco enlisted in the U.S. Coast Guard, "I hope by establishing greater regional cooperation in this regard, we will be laying the groundwork for more of our students to get degrees in Micronesian studies, CHamoru language, archaeology, marine biology, agriculture, and other fields that support a sustainable economy," she said. ***(PR)***

BAIL

From page 2

approximately 4:16pm, officers arrested Sanchez for contempt, citing his violation of bail conditions that required him to remain under house arrest and in the company of a third-party custodian. Both Olaitiman and Sanchez were subsequently transported to DOC for booking and detention.

Later that evening, at around 4:28pm, the Hilux Sanchez was driving was towed to the Department of Public Safety impound lot. During the vehicle inventory, officers discovered a mini clear Ziplock baggie containing a white crystal-like substance in a black bag located on the driver's floor panel, along with Sanchez's identification card.

By 6:10pm, a task force officer, witnessed by other officers, tested the substance using a TruNarc device, which returned a positive result for methamphetamine. The baggie's contents weighed in at 3.4 grams gross.

The following day, Thursday, July 11, 2024, at around 2:02pm, officers arrived at the DOC to interview Sanchez but learned he had been released at 10:45am after posting bail for a bench warrant from a previous traffic case.

Based on these events, officers believe there is probable cause to support charges of possession under 6CMC-2142. Therefore, a request has been made for an arrest warrant, with bail set according to the court's discretion.

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

NAME OF EMPLOYER: Sawatdee Nuat Thai Massage, LLC

THE POSITION: Masseuse

NUMBER OF VACANCIES: 2

JOB DESCRIPTION: Perform therapeutic massages of soft tissues and joints. May assist in the assessment of range of motion and muscle strength, or propose client therapy plans.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS:
EDUCATION: None
WORK EXPERIENCE: Must have at least twenty-four (24) months of relevant work experience as a Masseuse.

JOB LOCATION: Unit No. 1, Paradise Hotel, Pale Arnold Rd, Garapan, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

HOW TO APPLY: Submit or mail comprehensive resume, with supporting credentials, and application letter to:

APORNPHAN TAPWAN RODJARUN
Manager
SAWATDEE NUAT THAI MASSAGE, LLC

Office Address: Unit No. 1, Paradise Hotel, Pale Arnold Rd, Garapan, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Mailing Address: PMB 139, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, MP 96950
Email Address: sawatdeenuathai@gmail.com
Telephone Numbers: (670) 233-8424; (670) 285-8227

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION

INVITATION TO BID
ITB24-CHCC/WIC-020

CNMI WIC PROGRAM

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: AUGUST 3, 2024 TIME: 10:00AM (CHST)

"PROCUREMENT OF VEHICLE"

INTERESTED PARTIES CAN DOWNLOAD THIS INVITATION TO BID FROM THE CHCC WEBSITE [WWW.CHCC.HEALTH]. ONCE AT THE SITE, NAVIGATE TO REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS TAB ON THE LEFT NAVIGATION BAR. CLICK ON THE URL FOR THIS RFP. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER DATA TO ALLOW US TO TRACK ALL REQUESTS FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSAL AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ CORA P. ADA
DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

DONNA P. MIAH, Petitioner, vs. JULHAS MIAH, Respondent,
] FCD-DI CIVIL ACTION NO. 24-0255
] **SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION**

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED RESPONDENT:
YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is on file with the Court, within thirty (30) days after service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the Petitioner whose address is P.O. Box 8010 SVRB, Saipan, MP 96950 as soon as practical after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or Mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file and answer in accordance with this Summons, Judgement by Default may be taken against you for relief in the Complaint.
Dated this 25th day of June, 2024.

/s/
Clerk of Court

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

PROJECT NO. CPA-RFP-008-24-(REPACKAGED)
SUBMISSION DATE: AUGUST 15, 2024: 2:00 P.M.

"SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF AUTOMOTIVE DIESEL OIL AND JET A1 FUEL"

THE BID PACKAGE AND OTHER CONTRACT CONSIDERATIONS IS AVAILABLE FOR PICK UP BEGINNING JULY 16, 2024 AT THE ACCOUNTING DEPARTMENT, COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY, 2ND FLOOR, DEPARTURE BUILDING, FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT UPON PAYMENT OF AN ADMINISTRATIVE FEE OF $100. PAYMENT SHALL BE MADE IN CASH, CASHIER'S CHECK, CREDIT CARD, OR U.S. POSTAL MONEY ORDER. ALL APPLICANTS SHALL PAY THE $100.00 TO RECEIVE A COPY OF THE BID.

BIDDERS ARE TO SUBMIT ONE (1) ORIGINAL AND TWO (2) COPIES IN A SEALED ENVELOPE AND MARKED "SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF AUTOMOTIVE DIESEL OIL AND JET A1 FUEL **(RFP-008-24-REPACKAGED)**" TO THE OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, 2ND FLOOR, ARRIVAL BUILDING, FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT ON OR BEFORE 2:00 P.M., AUGUST 15, 2024. BIDDERS SHALL TAKE INTO CONSIDERATIONS ALL CHARGES ASSOCIATED WITH THIS PROCUREMENT BEFORE FINALIZING ITS BID PRICE.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CPA PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION §40-50-1020 AND 1025 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CPA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF CPA.

LEO B. TUDELA
Executive Director

Date: July 16, 2024

EMO is now EOC; radio coms now 'EOC Base'

To all mariners navigating the waters around CNMI, effective immediately, the Emergency Management Office is now the Emergency Operations Center. In addition, the radio communication or call sign for the "EMO Base" is now called "EOC Base." This update aims to streamline EOC's operations and improve clarity in its communications.

Key points:

■ New name: The EMO Base dispatch is now the EOC Base dispatch.

■ Contact information: The contact details and operational procedures remain unchanged. You will continue to reach the same dedicated team.

■ Emergency communications: Please refer to the dispatch center as the EOC Base for any emergency or important communication.

How to contact the EOC Base:

■ VHF Radio (Channel 16 and Channel 13)

■ Astro Radio/Land Mobile Radio

■ Satellite Phone (870776738006)

■ Single SideBand (SSB) (5.205.0)

■ Cell Phone: Call our emergency hotline at 670-237-8000

ECO appreciate everyone's cooperation and dedication to maritime safety. Please update your record and refer to the dispatch center as the "EOC Base" in all future communications.

For more information or any questions, do not hesitate to contact the CNMI Homeland Security and Emergency Management public information officer Bernard Villagomez at (670) 287-7106 or b.villagomez@cnmihsem.gov.mp. ***(PR)***

TRUMP

From page 1

differences, united in condemning the horrendous act of violence.

CNMI Republican Party president Diego Benavente, in an interview with *Saipan Tribune*, said he is saddened that politics in America has gotten so violent and hopes that changes are made.

"We pray for the individual who was killed during the assassination attempt. Of course, I understand there were other who were injured, and we pray they get well. It is sad that politics has gotten [so] violent, and we can't condone that, I certainly don't condone it. I hope that America changes its ways and stops the hatred. In my opinion, we can have differences in political opinions, but we can't be hating each other because it leads to violence like in this case. Think about the safety of others. Let's hope nothing like this happens again," he said.

In a statement from Kimberlyn King-Hinds, the CNMI Republican Party's nominee for U.S. delegate, she said her team is appalled and deeply saddened by the recent attempted assassination of former president Trump.

"Violence has no place in a democratic society, and any act of violence against a public figure is an attack on the very foundations of our democracy. Regardless of political views, we must all stand united in condemning such heinous acts and upholding the principles of peace, civility, and respect for all individuals. Our thoughts are with former president Trump and his family during this difficult time, and we hope for his swift and full recovery," she said.

King-Hinds said the party now calls on law enforcement authorities to thoroughly investigate this incident and bring the perpetrators to justice.

"It is essential that those responsible for such a despicable act are held accountable for their actions. As a society, we must come together to reject violence and division, and instead work toward dialogue, understanding, and unity. We must strive to build a future where differences are resolved through peaceful means and where every individual is treated with dignity and respect. Our thoughts are with all those affected by this senseless act of violence, and we stand in solidarity with the principle that violence has no place in our society," she said.

Meanwhile, the local Democratic Party, in its official statement, echoed the local Republican Party's sentiment stating they too strongly condemn the recent shooting at former president Trump's rally in Pennsylvania, and all forms of political violence.

"We are deeply relieved to hear that former president Trump is safe and well. We stand with Democrats across the nation condemning political violence, and violence of any kind, against our fellow Americans," said party vice chair Luella Marciano.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

CAMACHO

From page 1

Dr. Lawrence F. Camacho, however, said nothing is set in stone as far as the reshuffling of administrators in Public School System campuses is concerned.

KHS student and key member of the student-led movement, Nicole Sundiam, said along with the protests, students have also released a petition for other students and community members to sign in hopes of keeping their current principal. As of yesterday, the petition already has over 1,000 signatures.

"This is a small island and everything is bound to get talked about. There had been word going around that our school's leadership would be shuffled around and it was something many of my peers and I were devastated to hear. The whole thing is that not only Mr. Jones, but also other principals in CNMI PSS are going to be shuffled around. I'm not sure if any other schools and students know about this, but at KHS, we're doing our part to use our voices and keep our principals from moving. Since we're such a tight-knit and family-oriented school, the movement already has caught the attention of so many individuals. We know that Mr. Benjamin Jones, Mrs. Shirley Norita, and Mrs. Francisca Bondoc love our school and they are our pillars. They play such a huge role in our education. Many can vouch for what they have done for us as students and individuals and we all agree that without them, KHS would not be what it is today. I understand that their services and efforts may be needed to help other PSS schools, however, I believe that there are other ways to go about this," she said.

At the protest yesterday afternoon *Saipan Tribune* was also able to speak to several KHS students and each shared their thoughts about the purported shuffling.

"Mr. Jones, Ms. Norita, and Ms. Bondoc. They're more than just our principals, they've built bonds with kids and they've made a big impact in all of our lives. They are the school. They created this family and we owe so much to them. We know they have big plans for KHS and they've done so great these past couple of years together as a team. Every single one of them has played a part and they all matter to us and we really need them because they are part of the reason, we are who we are. Losing them would just—it wouldn't be the same. It wouldn't be KHS. We are the future and our principals they're making us better people and they've influenced us in so many positive ways," said incoming KHS senior Jayda Norita

Incoming KHS junior Jass Dikito told *Saipan Tribune*, "Our principals and vice principals, they took the motto 'Students First' seriously and they put us first before anyone else. Mr. Jones can come to us and just talk about our day, ask how we are, and you know, that really puts a smile our faces. Even when you speak to alumni from KHS, they can share just how Mr. Jones changed their lives. Some used to be troublemakers and now they're not. And it just really helps you understand that like they take their family seriously. We consider them a part of our family and family is worth fighting for. That's why we're here."

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

$100K

From page 1

an illegal substance.

During a bail hearing yesterday in Superior Court, Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho imposed a $100,000 bail on James F. Basa Camacho.

His preliminary hearing was then scheduled on July 19, 2024 at 10am and an arraignment hearing on July 29, 2024 at 9am. Public defender Charlene Brown will be representing James Camacho with Chief Prosecutor Chester Hinds representing the government.

According to court documents on July 11, 2024, at 4:3p, the Department of Public Safety dispatched units to Aiko's Deli in Garapan where officers identified James Camacho, who had an active bench warrant for his arrest. Officers arrived onsite and confirmed Camacho's presence, verifying the warrant issued by Associate Judge Theresa Kim-Tenorio on July 7, 2024.

Officers then noticed a black handbag on Camacho and when they asked if it belonged to him, Camacho refused to answer. After Camacho denied consent for a search, officers arrested him, and read him his Miranda rights, which Camacho ignored. During the transport to the Department of Corrections, Camacho mentioned wanting to hand over the bag to a CNMI Drug Court case worker, hinting it contained incriminating items.

The report further stated that upon arriving at DOC, officers conducted an inventory of the bag, finding a black Pelican case with Ziplock baggies of crystalline substances, cash, a scale, and drug paraphernalia. The DPS registered the incident and called for assistance from the Drug Enforcement Task Force and Crime Scene Technician.

Detective Melvin Cadiang and task force officer Jonathan Aguon arrived later that night and tested the substances, confirming them as methamphetamine with a total weight of approximately 111.7 grams.

Conge named to college of the Holy Cross' Spring 2024 dean's list

WORCESTER, Massachusetts—Gericho Louis Conge of Saipan was named to the College of the Holy Cross spring 2024 dean's list.

A member of the Class of 2027, Conge was named to the dean's list for outstanding academic achievement during the spring semester of the 2023-24 academic year.

To qualify, students must pass four or more letter-graded courses with no failing grades during the semester and earn a GPA of 3.5 or higher.

The College of the Holy Cross, in Worcester, Mass., is among the nation's leading liberal arts institutions. A highly selective, four-year, exclusively undergraduate college of 3,200 students, Holy Cross is renowned for offering a rigorous, personalized education in the Jesuit, Catholic tradition. Since its founding in 1843, Holy Cross has made a positive impact in society by graduating students who distinguish themselves as thoughtful leaders in business, professional and civic life. ***(PR)***

DPL

From page 1

amend the commercial use of Mañagaha rules and regulations pursuant to the procedure of the Administrative Procedure Act (APA), 1 CMC section 9104(a) to restrict the consumption of outside food and beverages in the Exclusive Concession Area; restrict certain personal floatation devices in the designated swimming zone, and further define the type of 'commercial activity' that may only be provided by the main concessionaire and a limited number of sub-concessionaires mutually agreed upon by DPL and the concessionaire," said the notice.

DPL's "Commercial Use of Mañagaha Island Rules and Regulations" currently provide that all commercial activity, including conveniences such as food, beverages, recreational equipment, and the like, shall only be provided by the main concessionaire and a limited number of sub concessionaires, and allow outside food and beverages brought in by visitors for personal consumption. In addition, the regulations do not currently address the use of personal floatation devices.

However, Section 16.A of DPL's standard Mañagaha Island Master Concession Operator Agreement requires the concessionaire to indemnify and hold harmless DPL for any injuries or losses which occur in the Exclusive Concession Area or which arise out of or in connection with any activities under the agreement, including the provision of lifeguard services.

DPL said revising the regulations to restrict outside food and beverages in the ECA and to restrict personal floatation devices used in the Designated Swimming Zone to those provided by the concessionaire will allow the concessionaire to exercise greater control over activities occurring in the ECA and for which the concessionaire is liable.

In addition, the regulations provide that commercial competition on Mañagaha Island will be eliminated and provide that the concessionaire has the exclusive right to operate all commercial concessions, but do not clearly define the scope of commercial activity and concessions included in this right.

DPL adds that revising the regulations will clarify that this exclusive right includes the right to conduct or operate any tour or activity on the island or departing from the island, including but not limited to underwater and surface water activities.

According to *Saipan Tribune* archives, DPL entered an agreement with Mariana Global Inc. to operate the Mañagaha Island's exclusive concession for 10 years, in exchange for payment of $800,000 in annual base rent, 9% business gross receipts rent, and over $200,000 in annual public benefit contribution.

According to the copy of the master concession operator agreement, the term of the concession started on July 1, 2023, and will end on June 30, 2033.

An option to extend an additional five years may be granted at DPL's discretion, based on Mariana Global's performance under its existing agreement.

Solomon Islands, China strengthening ties in worrying move for US, Pacific allies

BEIJING (AP)—The new Solomon Islands prime minister is in China for a visit as Beijing and the strategic Pacific archipelago strengthen their ties.

Prime Minister Jeremiah Manele met Chinese leader Xi Jinping in the Chinese capital on Friday after a stop in coastal Fujian province earlier this week.

"Solomon Islands values its comprehensive and strategic relations with China," Manele told Xi in prepared remarks at the start of their meeting in the Great Hall of the People.

China's influence increased significantly during the term of Manele's predecessor, with the country switching diplomatic recognition from Taiwan to China and striking a secretive security pact that has raised fears of China's security forces gaining a foothold in the region long dominated by the U.S., Australia and New Zealand.

Those moves came at a time of major tensions between Washington and Beijing, and the Solomons' tighter ties with China are seen as undermining the influence of the U.S. and other traditional allies in the Western Pacific.

Xi also met the prime minister of Vanuatu on Friday in back-to-back meetings with Pacific Island nations. China and Vanuatu are commemorating 42 years of diplomatic ties, Prime Minister Charlot Salwai said.

Both visiting prime ministers said that China's development and poverty alleviation is a model for other countries to learn from.

Manele thanked China for its support for the 2023 Pacific Games hosted by Solomon Islands, saying "the event was a success solely because of friends like China."

AP

Solomon Islands Prime Minister Jeremiah Manele, second right, attends a meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping, fourth left, at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, China, Friday, July 12, 2024.

He also said that his delegation had visited the police college in Fujian, where more than 100 officers from the Solomon Islands have taken part in training programs.

The security pact has raised concerns of a Chinese naval presence in the region and the basing of ground troops that could challenge other countries' access to the region that lies close to Australia and over which Japan and the U.S. fought savage battles during World War II.

While the Solomon's turn toward China has not been universally welcomed by the country's politicians, the May election of Manele and his Beijing visit suggest the country will continue in that direction.

Manele earlier visited Australia and is also expected to travel to Japan in a bid for investment and development assistance for the country of 726,799 people with a GDP of less than $2 billion that is heavily dependent on fishing, agriculture, forestry and mining.

Cantor announces $66M in Compact Funding for Palau

» Completes First Palau Bilateral Economic Consultations under 2023 Compact Review Agreement

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The Department of the Interior's Assistant Secretary for Insular and International Affairs Carmen G. Cantor announced $66 million in funding to the Government of Palau and completed the first bilateral economic consultations on June 26 and 27 in Koror, Palau. The U.S. implemented provisions under Public Law 118-42 and the recently negotiated Compact of Free Association Section 432 Review signed between the United States and Palau on May 22, 2023.

Cantor and U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Palau Joel Ehrendreich led the U.S. delegation for the bilateral economic consultations with a Palau team headed by Palau President Surangel Whipps, Jr., Minister of Finance, Kaleb Udui Jr., and other cabinet officials.

Since the Compact of Free Association Amendments Act was signed into law by President Biden on March 9, Interior has transferred $66 million to the Palau Government for the following purposes:

■ $50 million Palau Compact Trust Fund: To support Palau's efforts in the provision education, health, climate adaptation and the environment, the administration of justice, and public safety, or for expenses related to the audits required under the Compact Review Agreement.

■ $10 million Palau Fiscal Consolidation Fund: To assist the Government of Palau in paying debts it incurred prior to April 1, 2023. This is the first annual contribution of $10 million to be provided over a six-year period.

■ $6 million Compact Infrastructure Maintenance Funds for fiscal years 2022, 2023, and 2024 which represents the last remaining U.S. financial obligation to Palau under the 2010 Compact Review Agreement. The $6 million was earlier announced in Palau.

"These consultations demonstrate the United States' commitment not just to maintain our relationship with Palau, but to strengthen it," said Cantor. "The United States is proud to continue to be Palau's strategic partner as democracies and free market economies. Our bonds of shared values, shared interests, and friendship run deep. We want Palau to succeed as a democratic and prosperous nation for its own people and as a model for others in the Indo-Pacific region."

The bilateral economic consultations included briefings on Palau's economic initiatives, Palau's National Development Plan, and the planned use of economic assistance under the Compact. The group also discussed "dashboard" performance measures and recommendations provided by the Economic Advisory Group for Palau as related to the island nation's economic, legislative, financial, and management improvements.

The bilateral consultations are one of the requirements under the Agreement to review Palau's progress in achieving reforms to help Palau frame and execute a vision for successful and sustainable economic recovery, reconstruction, and development. This was the first bilateral economic consultation between the two countries under the 2023 Compact Review Agreement.

Under Public Law 118-42, there were also updates to the types of services that individuals from Palau and the other freely associated states are eligible for while living in the United States. An initial list of program and policy updates from various agencies that reflect the amended Compact are available here and will be updated as needed.

The Assistant Secretary-Insular and International Affairs and the Office of Insular Affairs carry out the Secretary of the Interior's responsibilities for the U.S. territories of American Samoa, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Additionally, OIA administers and oversees federal assistance under the Compacts of Free Association to the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau. The OIA also administers a discretionary Technical Assistance Program for all the Insular Areas. Find information about OIA and its work on www.doi.gov/oia, Facebook, X, and YouTube. ***(PR)***

Governor, lieutenant governor, GPA praised for rapid deployment of energy credit extension

GUAM—Democrat Sen. Dwayne T.D. San Nicolas commends Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero, Lt. Gov. Joshua Tenorio, and the Guam Power Authority for their swift action in implementing the extension of the Prugråman Ayuda Para I Taotao-ta Energy Credit program.

Just weeks after the extension through Bill No. 277-37 (LS), authored by Sen. William Parkinson, was signed into law, now known as Public Law 37-104, on June 5, 2024, GPA has already applied the second $100 credit to all active accounts, providing much-needed financial relief to Guam residents.

San Nicolas successfully amended the legislation, extending the power credit from three to six months.

"We are grateful to Gov. Leon Guerrero, Lt. Gov. Tenorio and our colleagues in the 37th Guam Legislature for their bipartisan efforts to extend this critical energy assistance program," said San Nicolas. "The rapid deployment of the second $100 credit by GPA demonstrates their commitment to supporting our community during these challenging times. This is exactly the responsive and effective governance that the people of Guam deserve. By working together, we could quickly deliver real, tangible benefits to our constituents in the form of these energy credits."

The new law extends the Prugråman Ayuda Para I Taotao-ta Energy Credit program through September 2024, providing $600 in direct aid to GPA's residential and commercial customers. The credits will be applied in $100 increments over the next several months.

"We thank Gov. Leon Guerrero, Lt. Gov. Tenorio, and the team at GPA for their dedication to this initiative," San Nicolas said. "Their swift action has made a meaningful difference in the lives of Guam families and businesses during this period of economic uncertainty." ***(PR)***

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INVITATION FOR BID

PROJECT NO. CPA-IFB-012-24
SUBMISSION DATE: JULY 16, 2024: 2:00 P.M.

"SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF ONE (1) BRAND NEW 4X4 PICK-UP TRUCK TO THE BENJAMIN TAISACAN MANGLONA ROTA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT"

THE BID PACKAGE IS AVAILABLE FOR PICK UP BEGINNING JUNE 13, 2024 AT THE ACCOUNTING DEPARTMENT, COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY, 2ND FLOOR, DEPARTURE BUILDING, SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT UPON PAYMENT OF AN ADMINISTRATIVE FEE OF $100. PAYMENT SHALL BE MADE IN CASH, CASHIER'S CHECK, CREDIT CARD, OR U.S. POSTAL MONEY ORDER. ALL APPLICANTS SHALL PAY THE $100.00 TO RECEIVE A COPY OF THE BID.

BIDDERS ARE TO SUBMIT ONE (1) ORIGINAL AND TWO (2) COPIES IN A SEALED ENVELOPE AND MARKED "SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF ONE (1) BRAND NEW PICK-UP TRUCK TO THE BENJAMIN TAISACAN MANGLONA ROTA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT **(IFB-012-24)**" TO THE OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, 2ND FLOOR, ARRIVAL BUILDING, SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT ON OR **BEFORE 2:00 P.M., JULY 16, 2024. A 10% BID BOND OR CASHIER'S CHECK PAYABLE TO CPA SHALL BE SUBMITTED WITH THE BID DOCUMENTS.** BIDDERS SHALL TAKE INTO CONSIDERATIONS ALL CHARGES ASSOCIATED WITH THIS PROCUREMENT BEFORE FINALIZING ITS BID PRICE.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CPA PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION §40-50-1020 AND 1025 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CPA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF CPA.

LEO B. TUDELA
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

DATE: _____

Zoning Office

NOTICE OF OFFICE CLOSURE

The Zoning Office will be closed on the following dates and times for Professional Development:

- July 18, 2024 7:30am to 11:30am
- July 24, 2024 7:30am to 11:30am

Office hours will resume at 12:30 on both days. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

/s/Henry S. Hofschneider, Chairman

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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EDITORIAL

FEMA's looming budget deficit calls for resources and new thinking

As communities along the Gulf Coast begin the cleanup from Hurricane Beryl, which made landfall Monday as a weakened Category 1 storm, they should find comfort in knowing that help is coming. The Federal Emergency Management Agency is well schooled in disaster recovery and has been on the ground since spring, when some of those same areas suffered flooding in uncommonly heavy rains.

However, at a time of extreme weather that causes extremely costly disasters, the federal agency is already concerned about running out of money before the Atlantic hurricane season ends. Congress has a responsibility to provide the funding necessary for FEMA to provide adequate assistance to victims, and to do so without allowing the issue to be mired in political infighting.

It will be some time before the nation knows how severely Beryl affected the Texas and Louisiana coasts, but the early reports are not good. At least eight people are dead, more than 2.5 million residents lost power, and flooding inundated cities such as Houston, causing considerable damage.

Before Beryl's arrival, the United States had recorded 11 billion-dollar disasters this year. These include tornado outbreaks across the Midwest in April and May, severe rain that caused historic flooding in Nebraska, Missouri and Iowa, and winter storms that pounded the Pacific Northwest and the southern U.S.

Those events come on the heels of a year in which the country experienced a record 28 billion-dollar weather disasters that collectively cost at least $92.9 billion. And with the Atlantic hurricane season projected to be among the most active in history, the nation could well set another record for both the number of disasters and their collective cost this year.

That's deeply worrisome for hurricane-threatened areas such as Hampton Roads since, per FEMA administrators, the agency expects to exhaust the Disaster Relief Fund next month. Using estimates based on a 10-year average, officials project the fund will run a $1.44 billion deficit by the end of August and $6.28 billion in the red by Sept. 30.

Of course, these aren't normal times. The nation is experiencing unprecedented extreme weather and more costly disasters than ever before. It's more likely than not that the money will run out sooner than expected.

"We are prepared for what was. We are not prepared for what is and what will be," former FEMA Deputy Administrator Richard Serino told CNN last month.

As many area residents know, assistance from FEMA can be a lifeline of support in troubled times, but the program isn't designed to help victims recover all they have lost. On average, households only receive about $8,000 from the agency, leaving state and local governments and insurance companies to pick up the rest of the tab.

This is emblematic of the country's backwards approach to disasters, which emphasizes cleanup and recovery rather than preparation and resilience. That has begun to change

See FEMA on Page 7

How Congress can quickly make Ozempic, Wegovy affordable

By ROBERT PEARL
The Fulcrum

Robert Pearl, the author of "ChatGPT, MD," teaches at both the Stanford University School of Medicine and the Stanford Graduate School of Business. He is a former CEO of The Permanente Medical Group.

A whopping one in eight U.S. adults have taken GLP-1 drugs like Wegovy and Ozempic for weight loss and related conditions. Their popularity and efficacy have sparked a prescription-writing frenzy in recent years, leaving both medications on the Food and Drug Administration's drug shortage list since May 2023.

But even when the supply rebounds, access to these drugs will remain out of reach for the majority of Americans. That's because brand-name versions of the drugs range from $11,000 to $16,000 a year, prices that are unaffordable for most people.

Attempts to control prices through legislation face significant hurdles, both in the divided halls of Congress and in the courts, where determined legal challengers await. Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., chair of the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee, hopes that applying pressure at upcoming hearings will force Novo Nordisk, maker of Wegovy and Ozempic, to lower prices voluntarily. History shows that pharmaceutical companies rarely bend on prices, even in the face of public scrutiny.

Fortunately, Congress can implement a straightforward solution to make these drugs affordable, thereby improving the nation's financial and physical health. Before explaining that strategy, here's why our nation needs effective, affordable and available weight-loss medication.

Framing The Obesity Epidemic

Around 42% of American adults are obese, putting them at dramatically elevated risk for a host of complications: diabetes, heart disease, kidney failure, leg amputation, cancer and severe musculoskeletal problems. The economic impact of obesity is staggering, with related health care costs estimated to be $260 billion annually.

For decades, health experts have pleaded with Americans to exercise more, eat better, and make lifestyle improvements while urging lawmakers to regulate food and address the "social determinants of health" that lead to excess weight gain. Currently, billions of taxpayer dollars are spent on government-run nutrition and exercise campaigns — on top of the $190 billion Americans spend on weight loss products, programs and supplements.

Despite these extensive efforts and expenditures, obesity rates continue to climb, as do the associated consequences, contributing to as many as 500,000 preventable deaths every year.

The Outsized Promise Of GLP-1 Drugs

Studies show that all GLP-1 drugs lead to major weight loss, averaging 15% of a user's body mass. And when obese individuals combine regular exercise with semaglutide, the active ingredient in Wegovy, they shed an average of 34 pounds.

Beyond weight loss, GLP-1 medications have been shown to reduce the incidence of diabetes and cardiovascular events, prevent kidney failure and potentially improve cognitive function in patients with Alzheimer's.

Despite all the known and potential benefits, the high price of weight-loss medications forces insurers and employer health plans to limit coverage, leaving many patients without access to these beneficial solutions.

The Current Financial Burden

The cost of providing 100% of obese Americans with GLP-1 medications would surpass $1 trillion a year, even with drug rebates. For perspective, that's more than twice what Americans spend on all prescription drugs annually. Moreover, that figure dwarfs the $260 billion in projected savings if obesity were eradicated.

And because patients who stop taking the medication regain an average of two-thirds of the weight they've lost, that trillion-dollar annual cost would persist indefinitely. From the vantage of the U.S. health care system, this ongoing expense (an estimated 25% annual bump in total health care spending) would strain funding for other vital components of care, including hospitals and clinicians. It would also drive insurance premiums and out-of-pocket costs through the roof.

A recent report from Sanders' office highlighted the stark disparity in global pricing for GLP-1 medications: Americans pay over $1,300 for a 28-day supply of Wegovy while patients pay far less in countries like Denmark ($186), Germany ($137) and the United Kingdom ($92).

This is because nearly all national governments, except for the United States, negotiate the price of prescription medications, rather than allowing drug companies to charge whatever they deem best for their shareholders.

The Hidden Truth

Contrary to what people might assume, these drugs are not expen-

See CONGRESS on Page 7

Ukraine's 'Birdie,' freed from captivity, recalls the horrors Russia inflicted on female POWs

By TRUDY RUBIN
The Philadelphia Inquirer

Trudy Rubin is a columnist and editorial-board member for the The Philadelphia Inquirer.

KYIV, Ukraine—It was almost impossible to associate the red-haired young woman I met in a café with her experiences in the innermost circle of Russian hell. But the memories of deaths, torture, beatings, and sexual violence, witnessed and experienced, clearly haunted her even as she spoke calmly and occasionally laughed.

Kateryna Polishchuk, known throughout Ukraine as the "Birdie" of Mariupol's Azovstal steelworks, sang for starving and dying Ukrainian troops holed up there for weeks after the February 2022 Russian invasion. Her songs—shared on social media—inspired Ukrainians still dazed by the war.

Surrounded, cut off, the Azovstal fighters finally surrendered to the Russians on May 16, 2022, and disappeared into brutal prisoner-of-war prisons where all were tortured, many murdered, and others are still held. As a combat medic, Polishchuk went with them.

Her story illustrates both the incredible courage of Ukrainian front-liners and Vladimir Putin's determination to crush Ukrainian independence by the most brutal means.

"When the war started in 2014, I was just 12, but I knew I would join the war. I didn't know the war would be waiting for me," Polishchuk told me. She studied opera, then after graduation joined up as a volunteer paramedic in the Azov battalion the year before the Russian invasion.

Already in Mariupol when the war started, Polishchuk refused orders to evacuate even though injured by shrapnel, and moved to the steelworks to help wounded soldiers.

"Food and water disappeared quickly, and we had just enough to survive," she recalled. "I had such a horrible state of feelings when my best friend died in my arms, and the next day my fiancé died the same way." She flinched only slightly at the recollection: "I felt I was already dead and just surrendered to my situation."

"In that bleak moment," Polishchuk said, "I let myself be my real self and die as who I was, and I found out I was a singer."

She was starving, filthy, and desperate. "Singing reflected my fears when we were under tank shells. I began singing to ease the many injured. It was a situation when I understood I was helpless and was just singing to help them. I didn't even know the guys made a video. As a result, the whole world learned of us."

That is when Polishchuk became Ptashka, or Birdie. "I was not afraid of dying but of surrender. I understood I could not trust the Russians, and me as Ptashka, it wouldn't be easy for me."

She was correct. Despite promises by the International Committee of the Red Cross (known as the ICRC) that Ukrainian troops would not be harmed while they were prisoners, Polishchuk said she feared the worst the moment she and her fellow soldiers surrendered. "When we were met by the Russians [after the May surrender], it was understood from the expression in their eyes that it was the end."

She is deeply bitter at the ICRC's failure to follow up on its assurances, especially given that the Russians brutally broke every one of those promises. "This organization [the ICRC] made me scream and shout when they called me six months later, after I was exchanged, and asked whether we had any evidence of mistreatment. I asked, 'Are you serious?'"

Then her memories poured out. Taken to a Russian-run prison in Olenivka, inside the occupied Donbas, "I was immediately put in a 6 foot by 9 foot room with a cement floor, and I knew where I would spend my youth." She and the other female medics were often trying to treat 60 or more injured people in a room 13 feet by 19 feet without medicine or bandages.

On July 29, 2022, a mysterious explosion tore through a men's barracks in Olenivka, killing at least 50 people and injuring scores of others. The office of Ukraine's prosecutor general later concluded the massacre was triggered by a thermobaric Russian grenade launched into the building — one of the conflict's most infamous war crimes. Of course, Russia blamed Ukraine.

Polishchuk and her fellow medics were in a neighboring barracks and saw the whole incident unfold.

For three days, the women saw the Russians building trenches around the barracks, and men carrying suitcases entering the empty building. Later they learned the walls had been lined with flammable material.

On the third day, male prisoners from Azovstal were transferred into the building. Shortly before the explosion, "we saw that the number of armed guards was increased and dogs were barking," Polishchuk said. "We saw all of this and heard the screams."

No one was allowed to leave the burning barracks, she told me. "We heard the machine guns firing. They were burning for two hours and not released.

"No one entered until the next day. Those who had wounds without fractures were sitting in isolation for one and one-half months and then sent to barracks. When the paramedics were allowed to see the wounded, they had no means to help."

The Russians never allowed the ICRC to visit after the massacre, or to investigate.

She clasped her hands as she recalled more horrors. She talked in a gush, and the words kept spilling out.

"The premises where we women lived were on the first floor, and all interrogations were conducted on the second floor. When they took the guys for torture, they forced them to undress on the first floor and made them crawl naked on the hallway floor and up the stairs.

"We had a radio but couldn't overcome the noises we heard, the sounds of beatings, cries, shouts, moans," Polishchuk said. "We never were allowed to communicate with the men. But sometimes we were able to learn what was done to them."

Russian guards boasted to the women that they had raped male prisoners with rubber batons, Polishchuk said. As a medic, she witnessed other horrific forms of torture. "The Russians cut off pieces of skin, pulled away nails, and the men were beaten constantly. During the first month, a young guy was brought to us after torture, and the next day he was taken out dead wrapped in a sheet. We were told he hung himself. But we heard shouting from some officers to the guys who killed him not to kill POWs anymore.

"Just a week after I was released, that was when the real hell started in Taganrog"—another prison across the border in Russia to which Olenivka prisoners were sometimes transferred—"I understood how lucky I was."

Conditions in Olenivka were horrible, Polishchuk said, "but in Taganrog, they beat women three times a day and forced them to undress and crawl along the corridor naked. They made them do a split and sit for hours. When you are stretched like that, they beat you between the legs with heavy footwear. All the women were beaten on their heads and forced to pull out their hair one by one. They humiliate them nonstop."

"One time a woman from Taganrog was brought to us who had been three months pregnant, but they beat the baby out of her and tortured her with dogs. I know a lot of cases of heavy, severe rapes," she said.

Polishchuk talked only briefly of the one serious rape threat against her during an interrogation. Her response to her armed attacker was to start talking incoherently and nonstop until her startled interrogator got confused and fed up.

"He didn't expect such a reaction," so he told the armed guards to "take this one away and never let her come here again."

"I didn't perceive myself as a prisoner, but as a national symbol," Polishchuk said. "This was the only thing that let me survive. As if you are in hell and meant for death, but you have to stay alive."

As a Ukrainian symbol, she was treated more harshly than other female prisoners, she said. "I was constantly taken for interrogations. They slapped you between the legs and threw you on the floor.

"But I decided, if you can't change the situation, change your attitude toward the situation. These are adult guys with weapons who are beating a girl of 20. I stood up with my head proudly."

She refused to give propaganda interviews to the fake Russian and Ukrainian separatist journalists sent to interview her. Or to drink with Russian colonels she was brought to meet who were sitting with big whiskey glasses at 10 a.m.

"I just came to terms with the idea I would die. I had nothing left. If I was tortured to death, I would be a cause for an uprising. I was living for my country and understood that my death would be a positive role.

"There was one time when the other girls [medics] asked me to sing, and the guards did also. I sang in an operatic voice, 'hazel eyes, brown eyebrows,' in Ukrainian. I finished this chorus, and there was a moment all over the barracks when you could hear 30 seconds of complete silence. Then one of the security guards started clapping, and then there was a huge wave of applause from the guys [we were treating] who had been tortured, and from the security guards, and the girls.

"The guards came back with cookies for each of us. And they asked, 'What are you doing here?' I said, 'I am defending my country.' The commanders were very angry at the guards for letting me sing, and I was banned from ever singing again."

Polishchuk was released in a prisoner exchange on Sept. 21, 2022, after more than four months in captivity. Her eyes were taped, and she thought until the last moment that she was being taken to Taganrog.

Once free, she immediately reenlisted as a medic on the front lines.

FEMA

From page 6

in recent years as the perils of extreme weather become more obvious, but it's a transformation that needs to gain steam—and quickly.

It's not only a task for the feds. The looming disaster relief shortfall is a reminder that municipal and state governments have a responsibility to invest in resilience and prepare communities long before disaster strikes. It's a dereliction of duty to show up, mop in hand, after a storm has passed rather than to make strategic investments before it hits.

It is also incumbent upon Congress to provide FEMA's disaster relief efforts with the funding it needs to confront our new reality while also expanding its capacity to ready communities for extreme weather. This cannot be a battleground to score partisan points, but an area that demands cooperation.

Beryl will soon dissipate, but the threat to coastal communities and others across the nation will remain. Officials must reorient our emergency efforts toward preparation, to build partnerships across levels of government that can power recovery efforts, and to match those efforts with the resources they need to succeed.

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CONGRESS

From page 6

sive to make. A team of Yale and Harvard scientists determined that semaglutide can be manufactured for less than $5 per month.

In May 2024, telehealth company Hims & Hers began selling a compounded (pharmacist created) version of the GLP-1 drug semaglutide for $199 per month, about 85% less than the brand names Wegovy and Ozempic. This reflects a profitable, but more appropriate, price point.

Hims & Hers can sell its version of these patented weight-loss drugs because Congress has authorized the compounding and sale of a patented drug when there is an FDA-determined drug shortage. However, once the GLP-1 shortage is resolved, companies like Hims & Hers will be required to cease production. This will compromise the health of current users and price out many more Americans still struggling to lose weight.

A Creative Solution For The FDA And Congress

Congress can make these lifesaving weight loss medications affordable for all eligible Americans by expanding the FDA's definition of "drug shortage." Whereas "shortage" currently refers only to inadequate supply, a more modern definition would include medications that are unaffordable and therefore inaccessible to millions of people.

By amending the Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act, this expanded definition would allow compounded versions to remain available at a reasonable price, even when weight-loss drug manufacturers increase production.

The reason drug manufacturers price GLP-1s at $10,000 to $16,000 a year has little to do with research and development, overhead, or manufacturing costs. The reason is simple: greed.

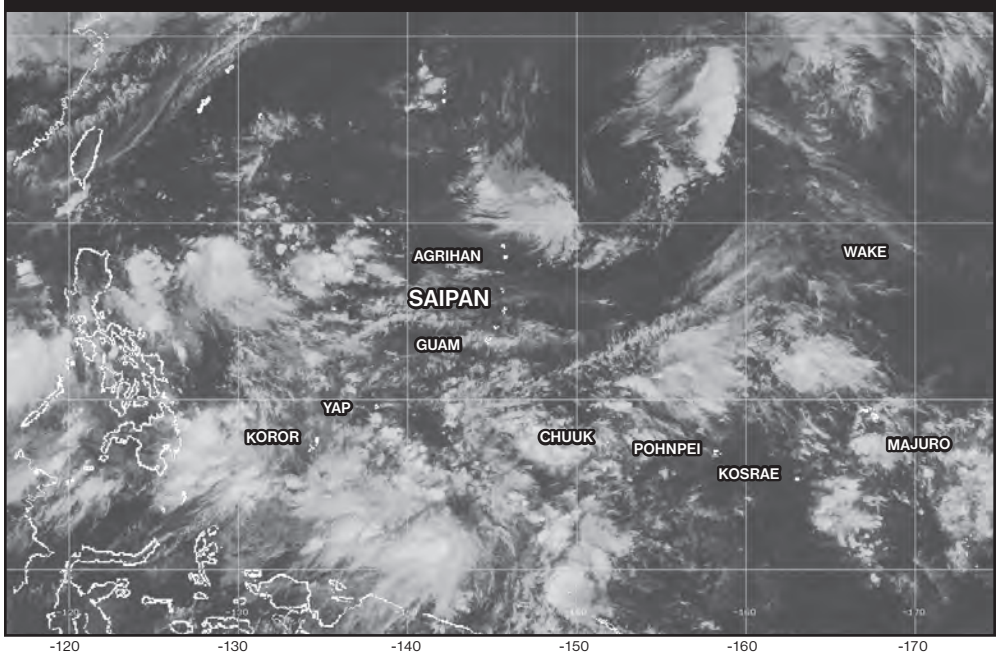
Such pricing strategies might be tolerable in other industries, but when the health of tens of millions of Americans is at risk, Congress has an obligation to act. Expanding the definition of "shortage" would break the monopolistic hold of current manufacturers, improve public health, save lives and incentivize GLP-1 manufacturers to reduce prices. The time for legislative action is now.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Isolated showers. Partly sunny,	A 50 percent chance of showers. Mostly cloudy.	A 50 percent chance of showers. Mostly cloudy.	A chance of showers. Partly sunny.	A chance of showers. Partly sunny.
87º 79º	84º 78º	85º 77º	86º 79º	87º 78º

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 6:35 AM MONDAY, JULY 15, 2024

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Little change from the previous forecast. The thunderstorms of last night have pushed off to the west, leaving the weather calm and sedate through at least tonight. The next disturbance is expected to approach Tuesday afternoon, and will increase showers back to scattered coverage, and reintroduce isolated thunderstorms.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: https://www.weather.gov/gum/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	90° / 82°
Palau	Mostly Cloudy	89° / 77°
Yap	Mostly Cloudy	86° / 78°
Chuuk	Thunderstorm	86° / 79°
Pohnpei	Showers	86° / 77°
Kosrae	Showers	86° / 77°
Majuro	Thunderstorm	84° / 80°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:55 AM	6:51 PM
Wednesday	5:55 AM	6:50 PM
Thursday	5:55 AM	6:50 PM
Friday	5:55 AM	6:50 PM
Saturday	5:56 AM	6:50 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	12:55 AM	2:04 PM
Wednesday	-	1:37 AM	2:59 PM
Thursday	-	2:24 AM	3:57 PM
Friday	-	3:17 AM	4:57 PM
Saturday	-	4:16 AM	5:57 PM

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Rain	58° / 54°
Beijing	Fair	86° / 74°
Hong Kong	Fair	90° / 80°
Honolulu	Mostly Cloudy	87° / 75°
London	Cloudy	68° / 54°
Los Angeles	Sunny	81° / 63°
Manila	Mostly Cloudy	93° / 81°
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	57° / 43°
Miami	Partly Cloudy	88° / 80°
New York	Clear	87° / 73°
Osaka	Cloudy	87° / 77°
Paris	Showers	73° / 59°
Busan	Cloudy	78° / 70°
Rome	Sunny	86° / 66°
Salem	Mostly Sunny	95° / 72°
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	85° / 54°
Seoul	Mostly Cloudy	90° / 75°
Tokyo	Cloudy	83° / 76°
Washington, DC	Mostly Cloudy	98° / 79°

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
2:09 AM	High Tide	1.90
9:49 AM	Low Tide	0.42
5:11 PM	High Tide	1.61
9:20 PM	Low Tide	1.39

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JULY 1, 2024

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA076	9:50AM	10:35AM	Daily

SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)

UA824	11:50AM	2:25PM	1, 3, 5

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

PR 111	5:55AM	7:55AM	Daily
UA193	6:50PM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Palau
UA183	7:10PM	9:10PM	Daily

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

7C3403/2305	4:45AM	10:20PM	Daily
UA076/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	Daily via Guam
UA076/193	9:50AM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau

SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)

TW308	3:15AM	7:00AM	Daily
7C3403	4:45AM	8:35AM	Daily
7C3405	4:10PM	7:45PM	Daily
7C3471	5:50PM	9:30PM	Daily from July 17

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX77	4:05AM	7:00AM	1, 5

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	8:00AM	8:50AM	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

UA825	5:30PM	9:55PM	2, 4, 7

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

UA184	10:25PM	4:20AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA192	10:25PM	6:15AM+1	2, 5 via Palau
PR110	10:30PM	4:25AM+1	Daily
UA184	11:50PM	5:45AM+1	2, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA192/174	10:25PM	8:50AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam
UA184/174	10:25PM	8:50AM +1	1, 3, 4, 6,7 via Guam
7C2306/3406	11:10PM	3:10PM+1	Daily
UA184/174	11:50PM	8:50AM +1	2, 5 via Guam

INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3406	9:30AM	3:10PM	Daily
7C3472	11:05AM	4:40PM	Daily
TW307	8:30PM	2:15AM+1	Daily
7C3404	10:10PM	3:40AM+1	Daily

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

HX76	7:25PM	2:35AM+1	4, 7

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 2, 2024

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	SAIPAN	ROTA	08:30	09:00	Daily
1302	SAIPAN	ROTA	10:30	11:00	Daily
1303	SAIPAN	ROTA	15:30	16:00	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3101	ROTA	SAIPAN	9:30	10:00	Daily
3102	ROTA	SAIPAN	11:30	12:00	Saturday & Sunday
3103	ROTA	SAIPAN	13:30	14:00	Monday To Friday
3104	ROTA	SAIPAN	16:30	17:00	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	ROTA	GUAM	11:30	12:00	Monday To Friday

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
4301	GUAM	ROTA	12:30	13:00	Monday To Friday

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1201	SAIPAN	TINIAN	7:30	7:45	Daily
1202	SAIPAN	TINIAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	SAIPAN	TINIAN	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	SAIPAN	TINIAN	10:00	10:15	Daily
1206	SAIPAN	TINIAN	14:00	14:15	Daily
1207	SAIPAN	TINIAN	15:00	15:15	Daily
1208	SAIPAN	TINIAN	16:00	16:15	Daily
1209	SAIPAN	TINIAN	17:00	17:15	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
2101	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
2102	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	TINIAN	SAIPAN	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	TINIAN	SAIPAN	10:30	10:45	Daily
2106	TINIAN	SAIPAN	14:30	14:45	Daily
2107	TINIAN	SAIPAN	15:30	15:45	Daily
2108	TINIAN	SAIPAN	16:30	16:45	Daily
2109	TINIAN	SAIPAN	17:30	17:45	Daily

Business

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Avedson Marketplace is located at Courtney's Plaza in Chalan Kanoa. Micronesia's first e-commerce marketplace website was launched last Feb. 25.

AVEDSON MARKETPLACE:

First e-commerce website launched in Micronesia

By RACQUEL H. FLOYD
raxfloyd@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

PC Bargain is known for selling gadgets and equipment products. When they expanded their offered products to groceries and apparel in 2022 for their Saipan branch and 2023 for their Guam branch, it resulted in the founding of Avedson, LLC to solely sell products online.

With the success of the Avedson, LLC website for PC Bargain, owner Leo Legaspi decided to offer it to third-party sellers in Micronesia and U.S. personal shoppers which led to the creation of Avedson Marketplace.

"I want to help the local businesses on Saipan who don't have a website, who are not yet doing business online. The advantage of having the iWebsite is to sell their products not only on Saipan, but the opportunity to expand their market in Micronesia with a population of more than 500,000 compared to Saipan's population of less than 50,000. That's why Avedson, LLC created an online marketplace so all local businesses could grow their businesses or may create more small businesses on the islands, including Rota and Tinian. Their local produce can sell directly to residents in Guam and nearby islands through the Avedson Marketplace website," said Legaspi.

How does it work:

■ Go to their website www.avedson.com to register for free.

■ Upon approval of the registration as seller, you will have to set up and customize your online store wherein a set-up guide will be provided.

■ The seller can now put their products that they would like to sell.

■ The seller can utilize Avedson Marketplace's marketing tools to attract customers.

■ The seller can keep track their orders and manage customer interactions through the platform.

■ The seller will have an opportunity to grow their business by monitoring their sales and adjusting their strategies as needed to continue growing.

Avedson Marketplace earns 10%-12% from the seller's total sold items for the month.

Legaspi also added that while most products are welcome, there are guidelines and restrictions on certain items and Avedson Marketplace's policies are included when setting up your store.

Meanwhile on the shipping part, he said that Avedson Marketplace provides tools and resources to help them manage the shipping, but they need to handle the logistics. They offer support to ensure their products reach customers efficiently.

Avedson Marketplace currently has 20 third-party sellers in Guam and Saipan; five U.S personal shoppers in California; two in Honolulu, Hawaii; two in Texas; and one in New York.

One of the most effective marketing strategies for Legaspi is their weekly live selling and/or webinar on their Facebook page.

"Almost one year now we are doing live from the Guam branch, our sales grew more, I am very hands on in our weekly webinars which schedule is every Monday in U.S. personal shoppers (Monday, 6pm California time); every Tuesday webinars for Saipan and Guam aspiring sellers (Tuesday, 7pm, Saipan time)," he said.

Avedson Marketplace is located at Courtney's Plaza Building in Chalan Kanoa (right after the stoplight at the U.S. Post Office). You can also email www.avedson.com for more details.

Nation

Trump heads to convention

BUTLER, Pa. (AP)— Former President Donald Trump called for unity and resilience Sunday after an attempt on his life injected fresh uncertainty into an already tumultuous presidential campaign, while President Joe Biden implored Americans to "cool it down" in the final stretch and "resolve our differences at the ballot box."

The opponents' statements followed an attack that shook the firmament of the American political system, causing at least a temporary detente in a heated presidential campaign expected to resume again in earnest amid the pageantry of the upcoming Republican National Convention.

» As authorities investigate motive, security in assassination attempt

A full day after the shooting, the gunman's motive remained a mystery, with investigators saying they believe he acted alone before he was fatally shot by Secret Service agents. Biden ordered an independent security review of the attack, which killed a bystander, critically wounded two others and prompted questions about how a gunman was able to open fire from a rooftop near a Pennsylvania campaign rally. The FBI was investigating the shooting as a potential act of domestic terrorism.

Trump, the presumptive Republican presidential nominee, said the upper part of his right ear was pierced by a bullet. His aides said he was in "great spirits" and doing well. He arrived in Milwaukee on Sunday evening for the convention, which begins Monday. He told the Washington Examiner that he had rewritten his speech for the event to focus more on national unity than on the policies of Biden.

In a post Sunday on his social media site, Trump said: "In this moment, it is more important than ever that we stand United, and show our True Character as Americans, remaining Strong and Determined, and not allowing Evil to Win."

In a prime-time address, Biden urged the public to recommit to civil debate. "There is no place in America for this kind of violence—for any violence. Ever. Period. No exception," he said. "We can't allow this violence to be normalized."

Trump on Saturday night spoke briefly with Biden, whose Sunday night speech marked his third time addressing the shooting.

The rallygoer who was killed was Corey Comperatore, a former fire chief from the area, according to Pennsylvania Gov. Josh Shapiro, who said Comperatore "died a hero."

"His wife shared with me that he dove on his family to protect them," Shapiro said. The two wounded bystanders were listed in stable condition.

The FBI identified the gunman as Thomas Matthew Crooks, 20, of Bethel Park, Pennsylvania, about 50 miles (80 kilometers) from the scene of the shooting.

The gunman had his father's AR-style rifle and was perched atop a nearby roof when some rallygoers pointed him out to local law enforcement, said two law enforcement officials who spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity to discuss an ongoing criminal probe.

A local law enforcement officer climbed to the roof and found Crooks, who pointed the rifle at the officer. The officer retreated down the ladder, and the gunman quickly fired toward Trump, the officials said. That's when U.S.

Questions abounded about how the gunman got so close in the first place. Kevin Rojek, the agent in charge of the FBI's Pittsburgh field office, said "it is surprising" the gunman was able to open fire on the stage before the Secret Service killed him.

Bomb-making materials were found inside both Crooks' vehicle and at his home, officials said. The FBI described the devices as "rudimentary."

His motive remained unclear. Crooks wasn't on the FBI's radar, and he was believed to have acted alone. Investigators combed through his social media accounts but found no immediate threatening writing or posts, or communications indicating an ideological motive. His family was cooperating. Relatives didn't return messages seeking comment from AP.

Crooks' political leanings weren't clear. Records show him registered as a Republican voter in Pennsylvania, but federal campaign finance reports also show he gave $15 to a progressive political action committee on Jan. 20, 2021, the day Biden was sworn in.

The absence of a clear ideological motive added to deepening questions about the shooting.

Biden urged Americans to stay patient. "Please, don't make assumptions about his motives or his affiliations," he said.

The attack was the most serious attempt to kill a president or presidential candidate since Ronald Reagan was shot in 1981. It drew new attention to concerns about political violence in a deeply polarized U.S. less than four months before the election.

FBI Deputy Director Paul Abbate said agents have seen increasingly violent rhetoric online since the rally, along with people posing online as the dead shooter. He said the FBI was focused on the upcoming political conventions in Milwaukee and Chicago.

Biden on Sunday ordered a security review of operations for the Republican National Convention, which is proceeding as planned. The Secret Service said it was "confident" in the security plan, and no additional changes were planned.

Biden said the two men had a "short but good" conversation Saturday night. Biden returned to Washington from his Delaware beach home where he met with leaders in the Situation Room about the attack.

Many Republicans blamed the violence on Biden and his allies, arguing that sustained attacks on Trump as a threat to democracy have created a toxic environment.

It's unclear whether Biden will be forced to recalibrate a campaign largely focused on Trump as a threat to democracy. It is a situation the U.S. has not seen since Teddy Roosevelt was shot a month before the election in 1912 while campaigning to regain the White House as a third-party candidate.

World

Hamas: Gaza cease-fire talks have not stopped

MUWASI, Gaza Strip (AP)—Hamas said Sunday that Gaza cease-fire talks were ongoing and the group's military commander was in good health, a day after the Israeli military targeted Mohammed Deif with a massive airstrike that local health officials said killed at least 90 people, including children.

Deif's condition was still

» Claims military chief survived Israeli strike

unclear after Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Saturday night "there still isn't absolute certainty" he was killed. Army chief Lt. Gen. Herzi Halevi told journalists Israel attacked a compound where Deif "was hiding" but added: "It's still too early to summarize the results of the attack, which Hamas is trying to hide."

Hamas representatives gave no evidence to back up their assertion about the health of a chief architect of the Oct. 7 attack that sparked the war. His killing would mark the highest profile assassination of any Hamas leader by Israel since the war began.

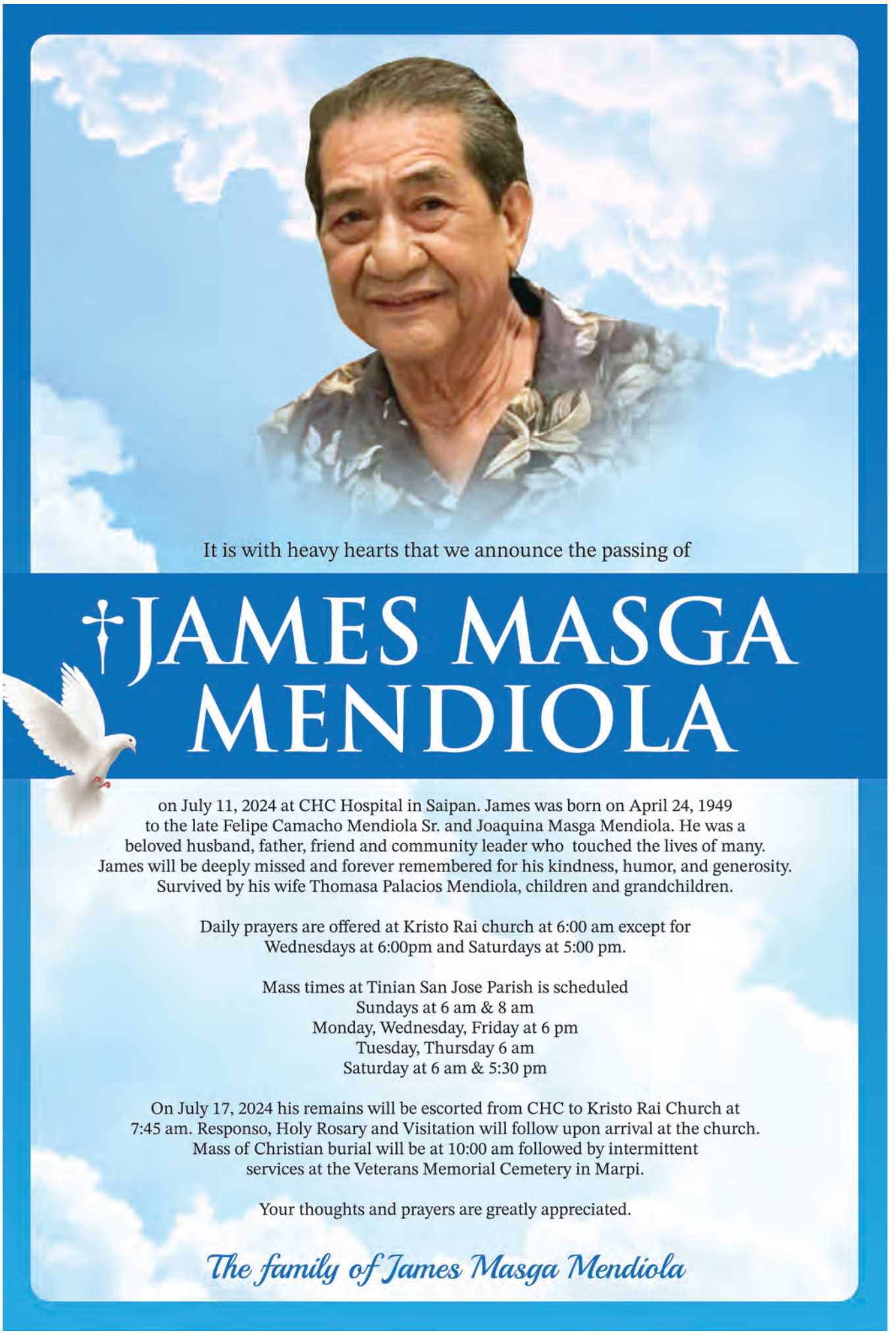
Deif has long topped Israel's most-wanted list and has been in hiding for years.

The Israeli military said Rafa Salama, a Hamas commander it described as one of Deif's closest associates, was killed in Saturday's strike. Salama commanded Hamas' Khan Younis brigade. Netanyahu said all of Hamas' leaders are "marked for death" and asserted that killing them would move Hamas closer to accepting a cease-fire deal.

Hamas rejected the idea that mediated cease-fire discussions had been suspended. Spokesperson Jihad Taha said "there is no doubt that the horrific massacres will impact any efforts in the negotiations" but added that "efforts and endeavors of the mediators remain ongoing."

Hamas political officials also insisted that communication channels remained functional between the leadership inside and outside Gaza after the strike in the territory's south. Witnesses said it occurred in an area that Israel had designated as safe for hundreds of thousands of displaced Palestinians. Israel's military would not confirm that.

On Sunday, some survivors were angry that the attack targeting Deif occurred without warning in an area they were told was safe.


It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of
†JAMES MASGA MENDIOLA
on July 11, 2024 at CHC Hospital in Saipan. James was born on April 24, 1949
to the late Felipe Camacho Mendiola Sr. and Joaquina Masga Mendiola. He was a
beloved husband, father, friend and community leader who touched the lives of many.
James will be deeply missed and forever remembered for his kindness, humor, and generosity.
Survived by his wife Thomasa Palacios Mendiola, children and grandchildren.
Daily prayers are offered at Kristo Rai church at 6:00 am except for
Wednesdays at 6:00pm and Saturdays at 5:00 pm.
Mass times at Tinian San Jose Parish is scheduled
Sundays at 6 am & 8 am
Monday, Wednesday, Friday at 6 pm
Tuesday, Thursday 6 am
Saturday at 6 am & 5:30 pm
On July 17, 2024 his remains will be escorted from CHC to Kristo Rai Church at
7:45 am. Responso, Holy Rosary and Visitation will follow upon arrival at the church.
Mass of Christian burial will be at 10:00 am followed by intermittent
services at the Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Marpi.
Your thoughts and prayers are greatly appreciated.
The family of James Masga Mendiola

WORLD BRIEFS

China, Russia start joint naval drills, days after NATO allies called Beijing a Ukraine war enabler

BEIJING (AP)—China and Russia's naval forces on Sunday kicked off a joint exercise at a military port in southern China on Sunday, official news agency Xinhua reported, days after NATO allies called Beijing a "decisive enabler" of the war in Ukraine. The Chinese defense ministry said in a brief statement forces from both sides recently patrolled the western and northern Pacific Ocean and that the operation had nothing to do with international and regional situations and didn't target any third party. The exercise, which began in Guangdong province on Sunday and is expected to last until mid-July, aimed to demonstrate the capabilities of the navies in addressing security threats and preserving peace and stability globally and regionally, state broadcaster CCTV reported Saturday, adding it would include anti-missile exercises, sea strikes and air defense. Xinhua News Agency reported the Chinese and Russian naval forces carried out on-map military simulation and tactical coordination exercises after the opening ceremony in the city of Zhanjiang. The joint drills came on the heels of China's latest tensions with NATO allies last week.

Former Peruvian leader Alberto Fujimori plans to run for presidency in 2026, daughter says

LIMA, Peru (AP)—Former President Alberto Fujimori, who was pardoned in December from his convictions for corruption and responsibility for the murder of 25 people, plans to run for Peru's presidency for the fourth time in 2026, his eldest daughter said Sunday. "My father and I have talked and decided together that he will be the presidential candidate," Keiko Fujimori, leader of the right-wing Fuerza Popular party, said on social networks. Despite the announcement, Peruvian law says anyone found guilty of acts of corruption cannot run for the office of president or vice president. Fujimori, who was convicted in 2009 of involvement in the killing of 25 Peruvians during his administration in 1992, has three convictions on corruption charges and owes about $15 million to the Treasury, according to the Attorney General's Office specializing in corruption crimes.

Sister of N. Korean leader Kim hints at resuming flying trash balloons toward South Korea

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—The powerful sister of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un vowed Sunday to respond to what she called a fresh South Korean civilian leafleting campaign, signaling North Korea could soon resume flying trash-carrying balloons across the border. Beginning in late May, North Korea floated numerous balloons carrying waste paper, scraps of cloth, cigarette butts and even manure toward South Korea in a series of late-night launch events, saying they were a tit-for-tat action against South Korean activists scattering political leaflets via their own balloons. No hazardous materials were found. In response, South Korea suspended a 2018 tension-reduction deal with North Korea, resuming propaganda broadcasts briefly and frontline live-fire military drills at border areas. In a statement carried by state media, Kim Yo Jong said that "dirty leaflets and things of (the South Korean) scum" were found again in border and other areas in North Korea on Sunday morning.

Life & Style

Shannen Doherty, 'Beverly Hills, 90210' star, dies at 53

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Shannen Doherty, the "Beverly Hills, 90210" star whose life and career were roiled by illness and tabloid stories, has died at 53.

After years with breast cancer, Doherty died Saturday, according to a statement from her publicist, Leslie Sloane.

"The devoted daughter, sister, aunt and friend was surrounded by her loved ones as well as her dog, Bowie. The family asks for their privacy at this time so they can grieve in peace," Sloane said Sunday. The news was first reported by People magazine.

Her illness was publicly revealed in a lawsuit filed in 2015 against her former business managers, in which she alleged they mismanaged her money and allowed her health insurance to lapse. She later shared intimate details of her treatment following a single mastectomy. In December 2016, she posted a photo of her first day of radiation, calling the treatment "frightening" for her.

In February 2020, Doherty revealed that the cancer had returned and was at Stage 4. She said she came forward because her health conditions could come out in court. The actor had sued insurance giant State Farm after her California home was damaged in a fire in 2018.

"I have no idea how long I'm going to be on the chemo for. ... That's not something that I can predict, it's not something my doctors can predict. And it's scary, it's like a big wake-up call," Doherty said on a late June episode of her podcast "Let's Be Clear," adding that a recent change in the shape of her cancer cells meant there were new treatment protocols for her to try. "For the first time in a couple months probably, I feel hopeful because there are so many more protocols now, whereas before I was hopeful—but I was still getting prepared."

A native of Memphis, Tennessee, Doherty moved to Los Angeles with her family at age 7 and, within a few years, became an actor.

"It was completely my decision," she told The Associated Press in a 1994 interview. "My parents never pushed me into anything. They support me. It really wouldn't matter if I was a professional soccer player—they'd still be as supportive and loving."

AP

In this Feb. 16, 2010 file photo, actress Shannen Doherty attends the G-Star Fall 2010 collection, in New York. Doherty, the "Beverly Hills, 90210" star, has died, Saturday, July 13, 2024.

As a child star, she worked steadily in such TV series as "Little House on the Prairie," in which she played Jenny Wilder. She detoured as a teenager to the big screen in "Girls Just Want to Have Fun" (1985) and "Heathers."

In 1990, the doe-eyed, dark-haired actor won her breakout role as Brenda Walsh in producer Aaron Spelling's hit teenage melodrama set in posh Beverly Hills. She and Jason Priestley's Brandon, Brenda's twin brother, were fish-out-of-water Midwesterners.

But Doherty's fame came with media scrutiny and accounts of outbursts, drinking and impulsiveness—the latter most notably after a very brief marriage to actor George Hamilton's son, Ashley. Doherty's second marriage, in 2002, was to Rick Salomon and was annulled within a year. In 2011, Doherty married photographer Kurt Iswarienko. She filed for divorce in April 2023.

She left "Beverly Hills, 90210" at the end of its fourth season in 1994 (the show aired until 2000), reportedly removed by Spelling because of conflicts with her co-stars and chronic lateness.

But in her 1994 AP interview, Doherty described her life as peaceful.

"It must be, if you pick up the Enquirer and find the only thing they can write about me is that I installed a pay phone next to my house and was seen at Stroud's (a discount bed-and-bath chain) buying $1,400 worth of bed linens and wouldn't go to an expensive store," she said. "It must be calm if they're pulling that stuff out of their heads."

Three years later, in 1997, Doherty was sentenced to anger-management counseling by a Beverly Hills Municipal Court judge after she allegedly smashed a beer bottle onto a man's windshield during a quarrel. After a 2001 drunken driving arrest, she pleaded no contest and was ordered to serve five days in a work-release program.

'Despicable Me 4' reigns at box office, while 'Longlegs' gets impressive start

By LINDSEY BAHR
AP Film Writer

Gru and the minions celebrated a second week in first place at the North American box office this weekend, while a small horror movie called "Longlegs" upset the starry $100 million "Fly Me to the Moon."

The supremacy of "Despicable Me 4" was hardly a surprise, as the Universal and Illumination franchise added $44.7 million and pushed the film over $200 million, according to studio estimates Sunday. But the big upset came further down the charts with "Longlegs" more than doubling the debut of the Scarlett Johansson and Channing Tatum romantic comedy "Fly Me to the Moon."

"Longlegs," an original horror about a serial killer starring Maika Monroe and Nicolas Cage, made an estimated $22.6 million from 2,510 theaters. That's the best ever start for indie outfit Neon (most famous for releasing the Oscar-winning "Parasite"), which acquired the $10 million film for distribution. Written and directed by Osgood Perkins, "Longlegs" also scored the best opening for an R-rated film this year.

Neon deployed an innovative marketing strategy for the film, including touches like placing cipher messages in local newspapers and posting a Los Angeles billboard with a phone number that played an "unnerving" message. In its first 48 hours, the number received over 250,000 calls.

"Longlegs" was well-received by critics (it has an 87% on Rotten Tomatoes), but audiences gave it a less enthusiastic a C+ CinemaScore.

"Fly Me to the Moon," an Apple Original Films production, launched with only $10 million over the weekend. It trailed holdovers "Inside Out 2," in third with $20.8 million; and "A Quiet Place: Day One," in fourth place with $11.8 million.

Sony distributed "Fly Me to the Moon," the Greg Berlanti-directed film about a marketing executive brought in to sell the space race to the American public, and, later, stage a fake moon landing just in case. Apple has not yet announced when it will debut on its streaming service.

The movie opened in 3,356 locations this weekend, attracting an audience that was mostly over 45. In this case, the audience was kinder than the critics, giving it an A- CinemaScore against a 67% on Rotten Tomatoes, suggesting that word-of-mouth may work in its favor over the long run.

Freeloading dad wants to add a freeloading wife

DEAR ABBY: My father has depended on my mother (and me) for money for as long as I can remember. It wasn't because he was unable to work, but because he was lazy and had a drinking and gambling problem. My parents eventually divorced, and my father moved in with his sister (my aunt). She died in 2016, which would have made my father homeless, so my sister and I bought our aunt's home from our cousins so he could stay there.

Fast-forward: Our father is planning to remarry. We do not love paying for him to live rent-free in our house, but in no way do we plan to pay for his future wife to live in the house. The money isn't that significant, but it is more the principle of the matter to me. I don't believe in supporting lazy people who take advantage of others. How do we kick our father out of the house without being total jerks? He is older and not in great health. We suspect the equally nonworking, slightly younger woman he plans to marry sees this as a chance to move into a house for free, knowing it is hard to kick out squatters. Please advise.

FRUSTRATED SON IN NEW YORK

DEAR SON: You and your family have ALLOWED your father to continue living his life dependent upon all of you. I hope your aunt's house is in your and your sister's names, or you will have no say about who your father invites in. The time has come to put your foot down. Consult an attorney for legal guidance about this matter. You are not obligated to financially support any person to whom your father takes a liking and wants to live with, married or not.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: I am a 47-year-old woman. I have been with my partner for 10 years. He was the most amazing person in years past, but lately he has been dismissive, avoids all emotional topics and is absent for days off and on. If I bring it up, he borders on abusive. Suddenly, he's belittling me and making me feel like I'm not the beautiful person he's always proclaimed I was. For my own sanity, I left him. Now he's promising he will have counseling (together and separately) so that he can get better and help me understand why he did a complete 180. Should I believe him? Should I take another chance on us? I love him, but it took so long to heal that I'm stuck in self-preservation mode. What should I do—walk or talk?

FRACTURED IN ARIZONA

DEAR FRACTURED: You say you left him -- that was healthy. Some women stay and tolerate abuse until their self-esteem is completely eroded. Because you still care for him, I vote for giving him the second chance he is asking for, BUT ONLY AFTER THE COUNSELING HE HAS PROMISED IS WELL UNDERWAY. You deserve not only an apology but answers for the treatment you received from him. Do not reconcile until you have them.

■■■

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $16 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

BY ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

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Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

QUICK! THROW HIM THE FOOD!
MY SANDWICH HAD MUSTARD. IS THIS ONE YOURS?
PUT ON YOUR VORTEX GOGGLES! WE'RE TAKING OFF!
EWW, THIS BANANA IS MUSHY. HE CAN HAVE THIS.
WE DID IT! WE'RE OFF!
HERE.
BOY, THAT WAS A CLOSE CALL, BUT IT WILL BE WORTH IT WHEN WE GET THESE PICTURES DEVELOPED.
SINCE I RESCUED YOUR SANDWICH, CAN I EAT IT?

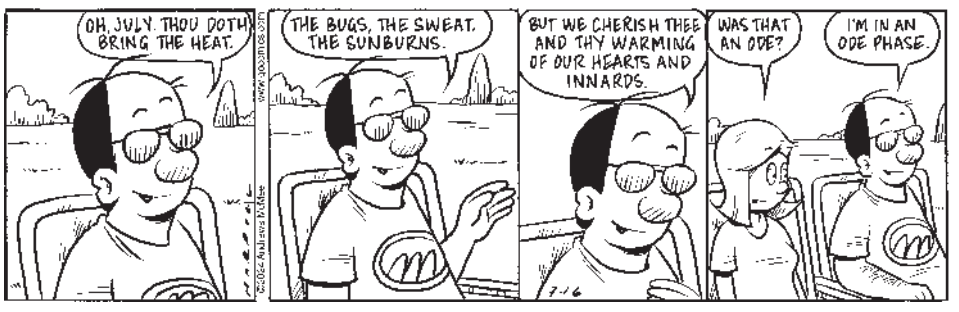
Garfield®

By Jim Davis

YOU GAINED A POUND. BUT IT'S OUR LITTLE SECRET
JUST YOU, ME...
AND THE FRESH BATTERIES YOU'RE ABOUT TO GIVE ME
THAT'S EXTORTION!
JIM DAVIS 7-16

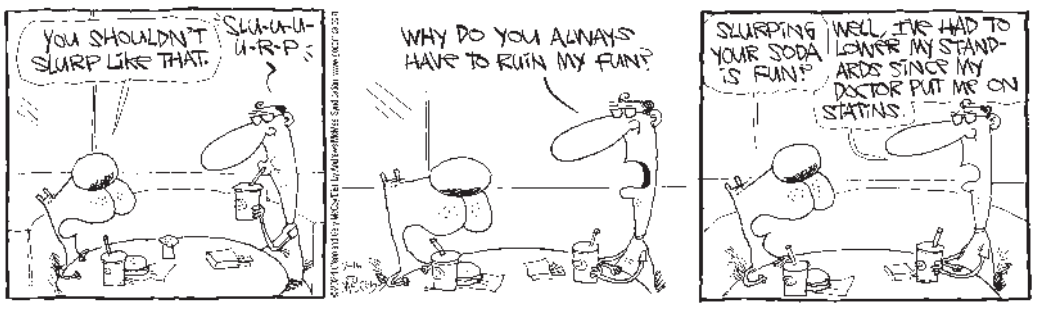
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


OH, JULY. THOU DOTH BRING THE HEAT.
THE BUGS, THE SWEAT. THE SUNBURNS.
BUT WE CHERISH THEE AND THY WARMING OF OUR HEARTS AND INNARDS.
WAS THAT AN ODE?
I'M IN AN ODE PHASE.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


YOU SHOULDN'T SLURP LIKE THAT.
SLU-U-U-U-R-P
WHY DO YOU ALWAYS HAVE TO RUIN MY FUN?
SLURPING YOUR SODA IS FUN?
WELL, I'VE HAD TO LOWER MY STANDARDS SINCE MY DOCTOR PUT ME ON STATINS.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Military force
5 Weeps
9 Wager
12 Corporate symbol
13 Tea carrier
14 "Feels so good!"
15 Backyard attractions
17 Code-breaking gp.
18 Eternities
19 Memento
21 Cellist Casals
24 Belgrade resident
25 Historic times
26 Cinema fan
30 Scepter
31 Jeans brand
32 Keats creation
33 Impartial
35 Leave out
36 X-ray doses
37 Caravan stops
38 Very small
40 In pain
42 — premium
43 Spare tire?
48 Pen filler
49 Hybrid fruit
50 "Zounds!"
51 Vegas opener?
52 Pantheon members
53 Really pesters

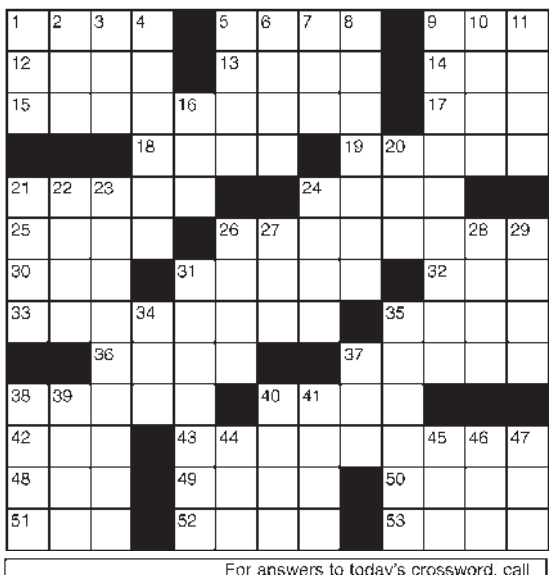
DOWN

1 Cleric's garment
2 King, in Cannes
3 Store boss (Abbr.)
4 Alpine songs
5 Getz of jazz
6 Scraps
7 "Humbug!"
8 Methods
9 Depositor's records
10 Lighten
11 Compared to
16 Scary cry
20 URL ending
21 Andean land
22 "East of Eden" son
23 Misfortunes
24 Lost traction
26 Own (up)
27 "— had it!"
28 Actress Falco
29 Workout count
31 Colorful beetle
34 Author Fleming
35 Lustrous fabric
37 Sphere
38 Follow
39 Sicilian peak
40 Maintained
41 "Topaz" author
44 Conceit
45 NYC airport
46 Trail the pack
47 Gridiron stats

Solution time: 22 mins.

A	M	E	N	■	D	A	B	■	A	R	E	S
P	A	R	A	B	O	L	A	■	S	I	L	T
B	A	R	S	U	G	A	R	■	I	G	O	R
■	■	■	C	D	S	■	A	D	A	G	I	O
B	A	B	A	S	■	S	N	A	G	■	■	■
C	H	E	Π	■	B	E	S	T	O	W	S	■
C	A	T	■	S	A	N	K	A	■	C	A	T
■	■	D	A	C	A	R	D	I	■	T	A	N	A
■	■	■	A	L	A	S	■	F	A	R	E	S
Z	A	G	R	E	B	■	G	A	Y	■	■	■
A	V	O	N	■	B	A	R	C	L	A	Y	S
P	I	S	A	■	A	N	A	T	O	M	I	C
S	A	H	L	■	S	O	Y	■	B	A	N	I

Yesterday's answer 7-16



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Gareth Bale, 35; AnnaLynne McCord, 37; Corey Feldman, 53; Will Ferrell, 57.

Happy Birthday: Take the initiative and be the one to make things happen. You'll gain notoriety in your circle or community if you offer innovative suggestions and confidently lead the way. You may fear change, but exploring the possibilities will be in your best interest. Activities that get you moving will lead to a healthier lifestyle and the chance to build quality friendships that encourage personal growth. Your numbers are 5, 18, 20, 24, 34, 39, 43.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Discipline is necessary to maintain momentum and reach your goal. Pay attention to your budget and how you use your money and skills to further your prospects. Keeping fit will depend on your emotional well-being and ability to adapt to change. ✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* If you are observant, you will gain insight that will alter your perspective regarding meaningful relationships. Don't let emotional conversations turn ugly. Choose your battles wisely and set boundaries that protect you from abusive individuals and bad situations. ✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Review your options and implement a positive lifestyle change. Refuse to let outsiders control your routine or interfere with your personal goals. It's up to you to stay on top of your health, happiness and personal growth. Love and romance are in the stars. ✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Consider who you know you can rely on for good advice. Reach out to groups that share your concerns. It's time to expand, explore your interests and take responsibility for your happiness. Choose to use your attributes to follow your dreams and aspirations. ✪✪✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Proceed with caution. Be wary of anyone enforcing questionable changes. Do your research and look for alternatives that suit your lifestyle and needs. Don't hesitate to be secretive until you have everything in place and an excellent chance to come out on top. Timing is critical. ✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Express your feelings. You can resolve issues if you are honest about what you want and expect from others. Being secretive will cause confusion and lead to uncertainty. Overreacting or an unwillingness to compromise will be to your detriment. Listen and focus on making positive changes. ✪✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Take care of what's hanging over your head before you start something new. Making excuses, putting off chores or ignoring issues will lead to underlying problems. Lift the weight, and opportunities will flow your way. Stop procrastinating, take care of business and set yourself free. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Stop worrying about pleasing everyone. Do what's best for you, and don't look back. Surround yourself with people who share your interests and do your best to make a difference. Kindness and consideration will buy you a pass to personal freedom to pick and choose for yourself. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Ask direct questions if someone is giving you the runaround. Get the statistics and facts straight from the source before you agree to join forces with someone. An opportunity is apparent but may require you to move forward alone. ✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Share your thoughts and plans and see who's on board. An emotional union will change how you feel about someone. Don't hesitate to show appreciation for someone you love. An energetic attitude and a unique approach to life will help you build a robust support system. ✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Take your time, observe what's unfolding around you and question anything that doesn't appear fair or lacks common sense. Emphasize home improvement, meaningful relationships and establishing boundaries that give everyone you care about equal opportunities. ✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* A change looks promising if you stick to your budget and refuse to let outside influences disrupt your plans. Isolate yourself until you have established your plans and cleared a path to achieving your goal. Refuse to let temptation set in. ✪✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are changeable, ambitious and persuasive. You are demonstrative and generous.

✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

6	1		4	9	7			
7		4				1	6	
		3			1		8	
				8	5	7	1	
	7	2				9		8
	5	1				6		2
2		9						1
3		5	8		9	2	7	
		7			2		9	5

Difficulty: ★★ 7/16

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

9	4	2	8	5	1	3	6	7
5	6	7	2	3	9	1	8	4
1	8	3	6	4	7	9	5	2
3	5	4	9	2	8	7	1	6
2	7	9	1	6	3	5	4	8
8	1	6	5	7	4	2	9	3
4	9	8	7	1	2	6	3	5
7	3	5	4	9	6	8	2	1
6	2	1	3	8	5	4	7	9

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Difficulty: ★ 7/15

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

DRAGONS **Solution: 10 letters**

T	N	E	P	R	E	S	W	R	I	N	K	L	E	S
E	R	U	T	N	E	V	D	A	R	M	O	R	F	O
R	E	M	O	N	S	T	E	R	A	O	R	I	A	R
R	P	A	O	E	E	K	O	M	S	V	R	C	N	C
O	T	G	S	D	N	C	Y	H	I	E	A	R	T	E
R	I	I	W	N	G	S	E	C	V	L	F	E	A	R
Y	L	C	A	T	T	N	I	E	E	O	H	A	S	E
G	E	A	L	I	U	O	I	V	L	T	I	T	Y	R
O	M	L	C	T	U	L	I	K	E	N	E	U	R	R
L	A	A	R	S	E	A	L	E	Ⓛ	A	C	R	O	E
O	L	O	C	B	T	O	T	N	G	Ⓘ	N	E	T	U
H	F	A	E	H	R	E	W	O	T	G	Ⓐ	S	S	Q
T	R	K	A	E	N	O	E	G	N	U	D	Ⓣ	I	N
Y	A	N	C	I	E	N	T	B	R	E	A	T	H	O
M	E	D	I	E	V	A	L	A	S	S	O	L	O	C

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Adventure, Ancient, Armor, Breath, Claws, Colossal, Conquer, Creatures, Dance, Dungeon, Fantasy, Fire, Flame, Folklore, Fortune, Giant, History, Kingdom, Leviathan, Magical, Make Believe, Medieval, Monster, Mystical, Mythology, Reptile, Roar, Scary, Serpent, Smoke, Sorcerer, Tail, Teeth, Terror, Tower, Vicious, Wrinkles

Yesterday's Answer: Keyboard

To purchase THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volumes 62 through 77, order on line at www.WonderWordBooks.com. (In Canada, call 1-855-232-2367)

Athletics run rampant vs. Phillies with 18 runs in win

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Lawrence Butler hit three home runs, Brent Rooker and Seth Brown each had two homers, and Oakland routed first-placed Philadelphia 18-3.

Butler had six RBIs. Rooker tied his career high with five RBIs for Oakland, which entered with the fourth-fewest wins in baseball and trailing Seattle by 16 games in the AL West. The Athletics' eight home runs were estimated at a combined 3,340 feet.

Zack Gelof hit a grand slam off Phillies catcher Garrett Stubbs in the ninth inning.

Trea Turner homered for the Phillies. Philadelphia began play with the most wins in baseball and was ahead of the Braves by 9 1/2 games in the NL East. The Phillies were trying to extend their club record of 62 victories before the All-Star Game and match the 1973 and '74 Dodgers for the most NL wins before the break.

Alec Bohm had a pair of doubles for the Phillies to up his MLB-leading total to 33. Turner and Bohm are two of Philadelphia's franchise-record eight All-Stars.

AP

Oakland Athletics' Lawrence Butler reacts to his two-run home run during the fifth inning of a baseball game against the Philadelphia Phillies, Sunday, July 14, 2024, in Philadelphia.

ORIOLES 6, YANKEES 5

BALTIMORE (AP)—Cedric Mullins hit a two-run double in the ninth inning to give the Baltimore Orioles a 6-5 victory over the New York Yankees on Sunday—after an error by shortstop Anthony Volpe kept the two-out rally going.

The Yankees actually made two defensive misplays in the ninth. Mullins' liner appeared catchable, but left fielder Alex Verdugo started in at first and couldn't recover well enough to prevent the ball from going over him.

Ben Rice hit a three-run homer in the top of the ninth off Craig Kimbrel (6-2) to put the Yankees up 5-3, but New York's closer couldn't hold a lead either. Clay Holmes (1-4) allowed the Orioles to load the bases with two out. Then Ryan Mountcastle's grounder should have ended it, but Volpe's error made it 5-4 and kept the bases loaded.

Mullins, who came on as a pinch-runner the previous inning, delivered the big hit that snapped Baltimore's five-game winning streak and enabled the Orioles to take a one-game lead over the Yankees in the AL East into the All-Star break.

RAYS 2, GUARDIANS 0

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP)—Ryan Pepiot allowed two hits in six scoreless innings, Jose Siri and Brandon Lowe homered, and Tampa Bay beat struggling AL Central-leading Cleveland.

Despite losing 11 of 18, the Guardians (58-37) have the AL's best record at the All-Star break for the first time since 1999. Cleveland was outscored 6-4 in dropping two of three to the Rays.

Tampa Bay was hitless in six at-bats with runners in scoring position, and finished 1 for 33 in the series. Cleveland was 0 for 5 on Sunday and 1 for 20 overall in the series.

Pepiot struck out four. Colin Poche and Jason Adam both went one hitless inning before Pete Fairbanks worked out of a two-on, no-jam in the ninth to get 17th save in 19 chances and complete a four-hitter.

RED SOX 5, ROYALS 4

BOSTON (AP)—Rafael Devers hit a two-run homer that broke a seat deep in right field at Fenway Park, Dominic Smith also had a two-run shot and Boston beat Kansas City to take the series.

The Red Sox won their second straight after losing the opener. Boston improved to a major league-best 9-3 in July and is 20-8 since June 12.

All-Star Devers sent a first-inning slider from Brady Singer (5-6) with an estimated exit velocity of 114.7 mph a projected 439 feet, crashing into the top of a seat and loosening up the top support. The Red Sox posted a "Fenway Facilities Incident Report" that had a picture of the broken red seat on their social media sites.

Adam Frazier opened the game with a homer into the Royals' bullpen and All-Star Salvador Perez, who was selected for his ninth Midsummer Classic, added a solo shot into the Green Monster seats for Kansas City.

RANGERS 4, ASTROS 2

HOUSTON (AP)—Josh Smith homered twice with four RBIs to lead Texas to a win over Houston.

Smith had a two-run shot in the first and added another one with two outs in the eighth to push the lead to 4-1. It's the first multi-homer game of the 26-year-old's career.

The Rangers won the last two games of the series after dropping Friday's opener 6-3. They also got a 2-1 victory Saturday thanks to Nathaniel Lowe's RBI single in the 10th inning.

Jake Meyers cut the lead to 1 with a solo home run in the third but the Astros went 0 for 9 with runners in scoring position to fall to 50-46 entering the All-Star break.

Texas starter Max Scherzer allowed four hits and a run with six strikeouts in four-plus innings in his fifth start of the season.

ROCKIES 8, METS 5

NEW YORK (AP)—Michael Toglia became the first Colorado switch-hitter to homer three times in a game, leading them to a victory over New York.

Ezequiel Tovar homered twice and red-hot Brennan Doyle homered again as the Rockies hit a season-high six home runs to finish the three-game series with 10.

Toglia connected for three solo home runs, two off New York starter Jose Quintana (4-6), to become the first Rockies player with a three-homer game since Brendan Rodgers in a 13-12 victory over Miami in the second game of a doubleheader on June 1, 2022.

CUBS 8, CARDINALS 3

ST. LOUIS (AP)—Pete Crow-Armstrong and Christopher Morel each homered twice to lead Chicago to a victory over St. Louis.

Tomas Nido and Ian Happ also homered for the Cubs, who split the four-game set against their NL Central rivals.

Alec Burleson homered for St. Louis.

Crow-Armstrong hit solo homers in the third and fifth innings. Nido snapped a 2-all tie with his fourth of the season in the fifth.

Crow-Armstrong entered the game with a .194 average and only one home run. He also stole his 17th base of the season.

MARLINS 3, REDS 2

CINCINNATI (AP)—Xavier Edwards' RBI single in the eighth inning gave Miami a victory over Cincinnati.

Edwards' two-out hit drove in Jake Burger for the Marlins, who salvaged the series finale.

Fernando Cruz (3-7) struck out the first two batters in the inning before Burger doubled into the left-field corner.

All-Star Tanner Scott made his first appearance of the series and earned his 14th save by getting the last four outs.

A.J. Puk (3-8) earned the win with a scoreless inning in relief.

The Reds finished 5-5 on their 10-game homestand.

TIGERS 4, DODGERS 3

DETROIT (AP)—Yohan Ramírez had two consecutive errors in the ninth inning, paving the way for Detroit to beat Los Angeles for their second straight comeback win over the NL West leaders.

Wenceel Pérez had a sacrifice bunt to advance runners in the final at-bat and Ramírez made a wide throw to third, allowing Justyn-Henry Malloy to score the second run of the inning for the victory. The right-hander failed to field Ryan Vilade's sacrifice bunt in the previous at-bat, advancing Malloy to second.

Zach McKinstry hit a leadoff triple in the ninth and scored on Malloy's single after manager A.J. Hinch made him a pinch-hitter.

Ramírez (0-5) gave up three hits and two runs in an inning a day after he gave up Gio Urshela's two-run homer in the 10th inning of an 11-9 loss in which the Dodgers gave up seven runs in the last two innings.

PIRATES 9, WHITE SOX 4

CHICAGO (AP)—Joey Bart and Bryan Reynolds homered, Ke'Bryan Hayes had three hits and Pittsburgh won their fourth straight game, beating Chicago.

Nick Gonzales tripled and drove in two runs for the Pirates, who have won six of seven and reached .500 for the first time since April 27.

Andrew Benintendi and Luis Robert Jr. each had three hits for the White Sox, who have lost four straight and 10 of 13.

Chicago entered the day as the first team in MLB history with 70 losses before the All-Star break.

BREWERS 9, NATIONALS 3

MILWAUKEE (AP)—Willy Adames had a homer and four RBIs, Garrett Mitchell homered for the first time in more than a year and Milwaukee avoided a series sweep with a victory over Washington.

Adames hit his 15th homer off Amos Willingham with two outs in the eighth to put Milwaukee up 9-3. He also doubled and singled twice.

Mitchell, who missed the first 84 games this season with a fractured finger, put the Brewers up 6-2 in the fourth with his homer. Adames capped the inning with an RBI single.

GIANTS 3, TWINS 2

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Mike Yastrzemski tripled and scored in the bottom of the ninth when the relay throw skipped past Minnesota third baseman Diego Castillo, giving San Francisco a win.

After San Francisco closer Camilo Doval blew a save in the top of the ninth, Yastrzemski laced a 2-1 splitter from Jhoan Duran (5-4) into the gap in right-center. Twins center fielder Manuel Margot fell while chasing the ball, allowing Yastrzemski to take third.

Minnesota second baseman Brooks Lee got the relay throw and fired the ball to third, but Castillo failed to make the play as the Oracle Park crowd roared.

Ryan Walker (6-3) retired two batters to win.

BRAVES 6, PADRES 3

SAN DIEGO (AP)—Travis d'Arnaud had two home runs and four RBIs, Chris Sale pitched five solid innings for his major league-leading 13th win and Atlanta beat San Diego in the final game before the All-Star break.

Atlanta has won six of its last nine games and took two of three from San Diego, which ended the first half losing by losing six of its last seven.

The Braves finished the first half 53-42 and in second place in the NL East, 8 1/2 games behind the Philadelphia Phillies.

The Padres concluded the first half 50-49 and tied for second place in the NL West with the Arizona Diamondbacks. Both teams trail the Dodgers by 6 1/2 games.

BLUE JAYS 8, DIAMONDBACKS 7

PHOENIX (AP)—Vladimir Guerrero Jr. hit a go-ahead solo homer, Kevin Kiermaier added a grand slam and Toronto Blue recovered from blowing a seven-run lead to beat Arizona.

Guerrero's homer in the seventh came off reliever Kevin Ginkel (6-2), who had his scoreless streak of 10 2/3 innings snapped. The Blue Jays avoided a sweep after dropping the first two games of the series.

Guerrero and Ernie Clement each had three hits. Genesis Cabrera, Trevor Richards (2-1), Ryan Burr, Brendon Little and Chad Green combined to throw 4 1/3 innings of scoreless relief.

Green earned his sixth save, working around Christian Walker's two-out single.

ANGELS 3, MARINERS 2

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP)—Jo Adell hit a three-run homer in the eighth inning and Carson Fulmer threw four hitless innings to lead Los Angeles to a win over Seattle.

Adell, who pumped his first around the bases, hit his 15th home run of the season off Austin Voth (2-4), who had just come in to replace injured Ryne Stanek.

Fulmer opened the game for the Angels and breezed through the lineup, retiring 14 in a row until the fifth inning when the Mariners reached base on a fielding error by rookie second baseman Keston Hiura. Fulmer then hit Victor Robles to load the bases and manager Ron Washington went to the bullpen. Fulmer finished with seven strikeouts.

J.P. Crawford hit a solo home run to break up the Angels' combined no-hitter in the sixth inning.

US men are favored for basketball gold but many challengers await them

By TIM REYNOLDS
AP Basketball Writer

AP
United States forward LeBron James (6) takes the ball up-court during the first half of an exhibition basketball game against Canada, Wednesday, July 10, 2024, in Las Vegas.

There is one goal, and it's always the same goal for USA Basketball. The only acceptable result from these Paris Olympics is another gold medal.

And the most recent gold was one of the toughest to get.

At the Tokyo Games three years ago, the U.S. trailed Spain by 10 in the quarterfinals, trailed Australia by 15 in the semifinals and beat France by only five in the gold-medal game. It was yet another reminder that in the international game, winning isn't automatic for the Americans anymore. And frankly, that's a notion they're tired of hearing about.

"I hear a lot of people saying everybody's catching up to us too, so that keeps us hungry, that keeps us motivated," U.S. guard Devin Booker said. "We have a lot of respect for those guys, but basketball still lies here."

Call that the mission within the mission for the U.S. in Paris: Winning is the goal, but there's also a clear sense that it'd be nice to remind the rest of the world that — while there are great players hailing from all over the planet—no nation can put together a roster like the one the Americans have for these games. A 12-man roster, all of them All-Stars before Kawhi Leonard's withdrawal, led by veterans like three-time medalists LeBron James and Kevin Durant and an Olympic newcomer in Stephen Curry.

"It's going to be historic for sure with this team, so I'm just happy to be a part of it, honestly," said U.S. guard Anthony Edwards, one of the Olympic rookies on the roster. "I ain't even thought about it too much. Just happy to be a part of it."

There is history on the line: Durant could become the first men's player with four Olympic basketball golds, James is seeking a fourth Olympic medal and the Americans are trying to win five Olympic titles in a row for the first time since winning the first seven competitions held from 1936 through 1968.

And the rest of the world is waiting.

Germany is the reigning World Cup champion, winning gold last summer in Manila. Serbia—the first U.S. opponent in France—and Canada also won medals at the World Cup, Canada captured its bronze by beating the Americans. And then there's France, the home team, a squad that lost the gold-medal game to the U.S. at the Tokyo Games 87-82 after beating the Americans earlier in that tournament and now has both home-soil advantage and Victor Wembanyama leading the way.

"I can't wait to face them," Wembanyama said of the Americans.

If that matchup happens, it'll be in the elimination rounds. France is in Group B, along with Germany, Japan and Brazil. The Group A pairing is Australia, Greece, Canada and Spain—which, top to bottom, would seem to be the toughest. And in Group C, it's the U.S., Serbia, Puerto Rico and Olympic newcomer South Sudan.

Teams play a round robin against the others in their group. Following those three games, the first- and second-place finishers from each group make the quarterfinals along with the two best third-place teams.

"It just gets you back to just enjoying the, I guess you could say the purity of the game and what it takes to put a 12-man roster together," Curry said. "And if everybody brings that right energy then we'll get the most out of this experience."

Antetokounmpo, Group A

Spain is a perennial power and has a now six-time Olympian in Rudy Fernandez, the first men's basketball player to qualify that many times. Greece has Giannis Antetokounmpo, Canada has Shai Gilgeous-Alexander and Jamal Murray, and Australia is still feeling some momentum from three summers ago at the Tokyo Games.

Australia's 0-for-forever run of medals in major international tournaments finally ended in Tokyo with the bronze, and Patty Mills insists the team can go for more this summer.

"From an all-around talent standpoint, you look at our team and the majority of us are in the NBA … and we've got a lot of young guys with a lot of experience, which we haven't ever really had had before," Mills said.

Wembanyama, Group B

Germany won the World Cup last summer and basically brings back much of that team, but will have to deal with France in group play. The winner of their game probably should win the group.

Brazil and Japan will likely need to spring one upset to be assured of getting out of group, or could rely on the third-place spots to advance behind the clear favorites in Group B.

"Last summer's experience was super special," Germany's Franz Wagner said. "Only when we got done did we realize what we had done as a group, not just the accomplishment of winning gold but realizing the chemistry we had as a team."

Jokic, Group C

Nikola Jokic didn't even play for Serbia when his nation won silver at the World Cup last summer; adding him to the mix obviously makes that team look even tougher on paper. Puerto Rico won a qualifier earlier this month to get in led by Jose Alvarado, and South Sudan qualified based on its World Cup result a year ago.

The Serbia-U.S. game to open group play will set the tone.

"It will definitely be a spectacle," Serbia's Bogdan Bogdanovic said.

Serbia's plan will be to use its years of familiarity with one another as the key to beating a team loaded with talent but one that practiced together for the first time earlier this month.

"We are aware that they will be a huge challenge and have a lot of continuity, a lot of players who have played together over the years," U.S. coach Steve Kerr said. "And that's one of the reasons they'll be as good as they'll be."

Murray, traded twice in 3 years, pledges to push Zion, Pelicans to higher level

METAIRIE, La. (AP)—Dejounte Murray took no offense to being traded after each of his two best seasons in the NBA.

Rather, the 27-year-old point guard says he's gratified by the opportunity to join a team that made the 2024 playoffs and is headlined by Zion Williamson—who showed up Tuesday for Murray's introductory news conference at the New Orleans Pelicans' headquarters.

Murray figures his future in New Orleans will be determined more by team results than by how he performs individually—and he can accept that.

"It's a business and I stay out of when it comes to the front office," Murray said. "You've got to realize, in the NBA, you have to win. It's not on one player. You always have to do what's best for your team and sometimes those are hard things and I understand."

Murray's main goal is "working hard and being a great person," he said. "That's the same thing I try to tell young guys coming into the league—control what you can control."

Murray was an All-Star during the 2021-22 season, when he averaged 21.1 rebounds, 9.2 assists and two steals per game for San Antonio. That wound up being his last season with the Spurs, who'd selected him 29th overall out of Washington in the 2016 NBA draft.

San Antonio dealt Murray to Atlanta, where last season he averaged a career-high 22.5 points per game. Now, for the second time in three years, he has been traded again.

"San Antonio was San Antonio, and Atlanta was Atlanta," Murray said. "I'm in New Orleans as a Pelican and I'm excited for that—and that's all that matters.

"I understand my role. I'm a basketball player. I'm not a GM," Murray said. "I want to continue to grow as man and a father and basketball player. ... I fit in perfect and I think it's going to be a smooth transition."

Murray said the Pelicans were "already a great team."

New Orleans finished the past regular season seventh in the Western Conference, but it fell to the eighth playoff seed after losing a play-in tournament game to the Los Angeles Lakers. Williamson suffered a season-ending hamstring injury in that game, and New Orleans was swept by top-seeded Oklahoma City in the first round of the playoffs.

"They won 49 games and going to the playoffs, that speaks for itself," Murray said.

Murray also believes he'll help Williamson grow as a pro—and vice versa.

"That's our superstar and I'm excited to push him," Murray said, nodding toward a smiling Williamson, who took a front-row seat across from the dais where Murray sat for his introduction.

"I told him I'm going to push him," Murray continued. "If I see something I think he can be better at, if he sees something to me, we're going to be open to that. ... I'm excited to push him to the next level because there are a bunch of levels he can reach."

Pelicans basketball operations chief David Griffin and coach Willie Green both said they've been monitoring Murray's career and seized upon the opportunity to bring him in—even though that meant giving up players they liked, including veteran big man Larry Nance Jr. and 2022 first-round draft choice Dyson Daniels. New Orleans also sent two future first-round draft choices to the Hawks, as well as 2022 second-round pick EJ Liddell and veteran center Cody Zeller.

"When talked about where are the opportunities for us to improve, the vast majority of those questions ended with one answer, and it was Dejounte Murray," Griffin said, emphasizing that he viewed Murray as a "two-way closer" with a knack for making winning plays at both ends of the court in a game's late stages.

Murray's arrival also gives the Pelicans a true starting point guard—something they lacked last season when CJ McCollum, a career shooting guard, took over the point guard spot in New Orleans' starting lineup.

Griffin said the Pelicans tried to acquire Murray before least season's trade deadline and were encouraged this offseason to try again when they met with agent Rich Paul at a Klutch Sports pro day for draft prospects in Los Angeles.

Griffin said Paul told him, "You really need to go try to get Dejounte Murray."

And when Paul "shared with us the excitement that Dejounte had for our situation, it was really an eye-opening thing," Griffin said. "He's hungry to win. He's hungry to win in New Orleans. He's hungry to win with Zion, with Brandon (Ingram), with CJ. He's hungry to be part of this family and I think that's going to resonate throughout the time that he's here."

Alcaraz beats Djokovic and now owns 4 Slam titles at age 21

LONDON (AP)—Carlos Alcaraz was ready from the get-go this time. A year ago in the Wimbledon final against Novak Djokovic, Alcaraz got off to a slow start, dropped the opening set and needed five to claim his first championship at the All England Club.

Sunday's rematch began with a game that felt monumental: 20 points across nearly 15 minutes, portending an engrossing, back-and forth contest—and a long one. There were moments of brilliance from both men. Alcaraz, though, was better. Just as he would be for nearly all of the next two hours.

Alcaraz learned from 2023 and applied those lessons to 2024, adding up to a 6-2, 6-2, 7-6 (4) victory over Djokovic for a second consecutive Wimbledon championship and fourth Grand Slam title in all. And to think: He is still just 21.

AP

Carlos Alcaraz of Spain smiles as he holds up his trophy for the photographers after defeating Novak Djokovic of Serbia in the men's singles final at the Wimbledon tennis championships in London, Sunday, July 14, 2024.

"At the end of my career, I want to sit at the same table as the big guys," said Alcaraz, who won the French Open last month and, after receiving Wimbledon's gold trophy from Kate, the Princes of Wales, is now just the sixth man to triumph on the red clay at Roland Garros and the grass at the All England Club in the same season. "That's my main goal. That's my dream right now."

Alcaraz improved to 4-0 in major finals, including at the 2022 U.S. Open; only Roger Federer got off to a better start to a career among men, going 7-0.

"He just was better than me in every aspect of the game," said the 37-year-old Djokovic, who had knee surgery less than 1 1/2 months ago yet was hoping to tie Federer's men's record of eight Wimbledon titles and become the first player in tennis history to win 25 Grand Slam tournaments. "In movement, in the way he was just striking the ball beautifully, serving great. Everything."

For Alcaraz, there was one brief blip, a five-point stretch that took him from the verge of victory to close to a collapse. It happened when he was a point from the championship while serving at 5-4, 40-love. But he double-faulted. Then missed a backhand. Then a volley. Then a forehand. And another forehand. Suddenly, it was 5-all. Suddenly, Alcaraz appeared rattled. Suddenly, Djokovic could hope.

Suddenly, there was intrigue.

But only briefly. Alcaraz regrouped, got to the tiebreaker, then closed things out.

Last year, Djokovic recalled, "We went toe to toe."

"This year," he continued, "it was nothing like that. It was all about him. He was the dominant force on the court and deserved to win."

GUNJI

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came out on top and wrapped it up an hour later, 21-14, 14-21, 21-16.

Gunji could've gotten the title after the first set as she left Takahashi gasping for air, but Takahashi took a deep breath in the second and regained composure and confidence to force a tie breaker.

Takahashi got her revenge in the second and left Gunji in her dust as she mimicked the score she put up against her in the first set. Takahashi had to pause the match a couple of times because of needing a band aid on her finger, but continued to play as though she wasn't hurt. Gunji was left to defend most of the time and battled hard for her points as Takahashi controlled the reins.

Takahashi drew first blood and took that momentum forward as she pulled away from a fighting Gunji—which resulted in the biggest lead she had in the match, 17-12, then 18-13.

Gunji then struggled to get back into fighting form and would go on to score just one more point as Takahashi triumphed and pushed the match into a winner-take-all tie breaking third set.

The climax culminated in a finals matchup that could've gone either way as both players fought their hearts out. The lead trampolined between the two with the crowd on the edge of their seats the whole time.

Takahashi didn't stray behind Gunji too far, but Gunji dug in and found the strength and mental awareness to force Takahashi to make errors. Gunji then found her stride after a 13-13 tie and left Takahashi reeling with three straight unanswered points. Takahashi then replied and tied it up once again, 16-16.

But Gunji tired out Takahashi with long volleys and better placed smashes. After retaking the lead, 17-16, Gunji locked in and didn't let go of her service until the end as she landed the final four points, 21-16.

LEIGH GASES

Women's singles No. 6 seed Japan's Riko Gunji fist-pumps in celebration after landing a point during her finals match in the last Badminton World Federation Grade 3 International Challenge tournament on Saipan—the Dove Saipan International 2024—last Saturday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Gunji found herself in the finals after upsetting No. 3 Sih Yun Lin in the quarterfinals last Friday, and discarding unseeded Yu-Chi Yang in the semis on the same day.

After her finals matchup, Gunji said, "It was a long game, but I'm glad I was able to persevere until the end and win." As for the first tournament, the Crowne Plaza Northern Marianas Open 2024, she said, "Last week I fell ill and had to withdraw, but I'm glad I was able to make it to the finals this week."

Results of the mixed doubles, women's doubles, and men's doubles will be posted in the next issues of *Saipan Tribune*.

LEIGH GASES

Runner-up and No. 8 seed Asuka Takahashi stretches for a return during the women's singles finals in the last Badminton World Federation Grade 3 International Challenge tournament on Saipan—the Dove Saipan International 2024—last Saturday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

LEIGH GASES

Women's singles champion No. 6 seed Japan's Riko Gunji, right, poses with her trophy and runner-up and No. 8 seed Asuka Takahashi during the awards ceremony of the last Badminton World Federation Grade 3 International Challenge tournament on Saipan—the Dove Saipan International 2024—last Saturday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

ONLY

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Management International, JEM Mobile Stations, Fishing Tackle & Sporting Goods Store, Pacific Basin Insurance, and Tinian Shipping.

The rest of the fish categories—Bill Fish (1st-3rd), Yellow Fin (1st-3rd), Wahoo (1st-3rd), Mahi Mahi (1st-3rd), Skipjack Tuna (1st-3rd), and total weight will be posted in the next issues of *Saipan Tribune*.

DOUBLES

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In the 16U boys finals, Yu paired up with No. 2 seed Guam's Junhyuk Kevin Seo and found themselves against Tahitians and No. 1 seed Hiva Kelley and Keanau Lei Foc.

The junior netters of Micronesia put up a valiant effort but succumbed to the Polynesian's chemistry as they were overwhelmed, 3-6, 1-6.

In the other matches that day, for the battle for third place in the 16U girls doubles, NMI's Irin Chung and Hoo Wang teamed up and faced off against PNG's Pauline Hyun and Fiji's Sina Izumi.

The NMI junior netters bounced back after a 2-6 first set loss and won the second, 6-4, to force a tie-breaker. In the final set, No. 2 seed Hyun and Izumi's firepower held off Chung and Wang in the end, 10-6.

In the 14U girls' battle for third place, Lee lost to Fiji's Alexandria Chand, 2-6, 6-7. For the 16U girls doubles consolation finals, Hannah Chae and partner Leila Mercado from Guam took it to three long sets that lasted for an hour and a half. Ultimately, Samoa's Toaiva Loto and Dora Moors won, 6-2, 2-6, 10-6.

For the 16U boys singles battle for 5th/6th place, the NMI's Nason Wessel didn't complete the match against Tahiti's Mataihau Sacault, 3-6, 0-1; and in the 14U boys matchup for 7th/8th place, the NMI's Ryan Choi was retired in his game against Guam's Jacob Hsiao, 1-3.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Second place of the 16U boys doubles, the NMI's June Yu, left, and partner Guam's Junhyuk "Keven" Seo, center, during the awards ceremony of the 2024 Pacific Oceania Junior Championship last Thursday in Lautoka, Fiji.

The Junior Championship featured players from the NMI, American Samoa, Vanuatu, Guam, Samoa, Tahiti, Papua New Guinea, Fiji, Solomon Islands, Cook Islands, Tuvalu, and the Federated States of Micronesia.

The team's head coach, Jeff Race, said of the junior netters' performances, "I'm very happy for our players that reached the finals and won medals. We have a lot of things to work on going forward. These competitions are really important in identifying our team's strengths and weaknesses." He added, "I'd like to thank the players, parents, and coach Colin Ramsey for their teamwork over the last two weeks."

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Baltimore	58	38	.604	–
New York	58	40	.592	1
Boston	53	42	.558	4½
Tampa Bay	48	48	.500	10
Toronto	44	52	.458	14
Central Division				
Cleveland	58	37	.611	–
Minnesota	54	42	.563	4½
Kansas City	52	45	.536	7
Detroit	47	50	.485	12
Chicago	27	71	.276	32½
West Division				
Seattle	52	46	.531	–
Houston	50	46	.521	1
Texas	46	50	.479	5
Los Angeles	41	55	.427	10
Oakland	37	61	.378	15

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Philadelphia	62	34	.646	–
Atlanta	53	42	.558	8½
New York	49	46	.516	12½
Washington	44	53	.454	18½
Miami	33	63	.344	29
Central Division				
Milwaukee	55	42	.567	–
St. Louis	50	46	.521	4½
Pittsburgh	48	48	.500	6½
Cincinnati	47	50	.485	8
Chicago	47	51	.480	8½
West Division				
Los Angeles	56	41	.577	–
San Diego	50	49	.505	7
Arizona	49	48	.505	7
San Francisco	47	50	.485	9
Colorado	34	63	.351	22

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Gunji fires through 3-set thriller for women's title

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

Women's singles No. 6 seed Japan's Riko Gunji added another title to her collection as she fired her way through three tough sets in the finals of the last Badminton World Federation Grade 3 International Challenge tournament on Saipan—the Dove Saipan International 2024—last Saturday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The 2019 World Junior Championship winner, who has won two of her last four tournaments this year—including the Dove tourney—went up against formidable foe and fellow countrywoman, No. 8 seed Asuka Takahashi.

Both were equally matched throughout as the finals brought out the best in them—from acrobatic reaches, cat-like reflexes, and mind games—it was a thrilling match from start to finish. However, 21-year-old Gunji

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LEIGH GASES
Women's singles No. 6 seed Japan's Riko Gunji makes contact on a return during her finals match against No. 8 seed Asuka Takahashi in the last Badminton World Federation Grade 3 International Challenge tournament in Saipan—the Dove Saipan International 2024—last Saturday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Only Reels' 211-lb mahi wins grand prize

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

It seems that 40 is the lucky number in this year's Saipan Fishermen's Association 40th Annual Saipan International Fishing Tournament, as 40-year-old captain Aaron Benavente of *Only Reels* hauled in the heaviest catch—a 211-lb mahi during the two-day tourney last weekend at the Smiling Cove Marina.

LEIGH GASES
The grand prize 211-lb marlin is seen in all its glory in the weighing station at the Smiling Cove Marina last Sunday during the two-day Saipan Fishermen's Association 40th Annual Saipan International Fishing Tournament. Right is captain Aaron Benavente and crew Jesse Ramon of *Only Reels*.

In the 40th year of the tourney, Benavente, who also celebrated his 40th year around the sun this year, caught the winning haul—his only reel of the day—last Sunday, around 10:30am off the waters of Marpi Reef.

He said that they were about to pack it up and leave the reef, but he and his cousin Jesse Ramon—just the two of them on a 17-footer—decided to put out a big lure to see if they could catch anything.

The marlin was then caught which ensued a fight that lasted for about 30-40 minutes—and became the heaviest catch of the tourney, much to Benavente's surprise. "When we brought it into the boat, we were hoping to at least be a contender—maybe third or second, but when we came in and it weighed what it was, we were like 'okay—we're sitting at first,'" said Benavente.

With that, he said, "I'm just happy that it's first; all I want is the trophy—doesn't matter what place—but if I got the grand, then I'm happy." He also said that this is just the second marlin he's ever caught and that it's fortunate that it was during this year's tournament.

The conditions Sunday, he said, were worse than the first day last Saturday. With just him and his cousin on the small boat, he said they just had to take it easy. "It was rough out there—that's all I gotta say—but everything's worth it."

Benavente said that he's been joining the previous international derbies in the past and even during the COVID-19 pandemic. He said before he had his boat, he was a crewmember on the boat MV *Gloria*. "Ever since I got my own boat though, I've been going out on my own," he said.

He then thanked his crew, his family, and everyone that supported him. He also thanked the organizers of the event, the sponsors, and the anglers from Guam that came out to support the tourney.

Tournament sponsors are the Marianas Visitors Authority, Mobil Oil Marianas, Budweiser, Docomo Pacific, Tan Siu Lin Foundation, Paradise Dental, Hawaiian Rock Products, Matson Navigation, Coca Cola/Foremost, Pacifica Insurance, Century Insurance, RNV Construction, Bridge Capital Investments, United

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Doubles teams snag second place in Fiji

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Second place of the 14U girls doubles, the NMI's Anne Lee, left, and partner Guam's Faith Perera, right, during the awards ceremony of the 2024 Pacific Oceania Junior Championship last Thursday in Lautoka, Fiji.

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

The NMI National Junior Tennis Team's doubles players snagged second place in their respective divisions of the 2024 Pacific Oceania Junior Championship last Thursday in Lautoka, Fiji.

The tourney's No. 2 seed in the 14U division, NMI's Anne Lee and June Yu in the 16U division won second place after their doubles matchups with their partners from Guam.

Lee teamed up with Guam's Faith Perera in the girls 14U doubles division and reached the finals.

The Micronesian junior netters faced off against junior players No. 1 seed Colita Hakena of Papua New Guinea and Tuvalu's Alalilo Tepa. Hakena and Tepa started off the finals hot and overpowered Lee and Perera in the first set, 6-1.

Lee and Perera then doubled down in the second set to force a tie-breaking third set. While they were routed in the first, they got their rhythm and returns going to blast past Hakena and Tepa, 6-2. In the third set, the finals could've gone either way as both duos locked in and forced super tie breakers until the end. Ultimately, Hakena and Tepa got the better of Lee and Perera and won, 10-8.

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